

Long Island ABATE 1-9-18 Membership Meeting, Ronkonkoma, NY

Heroes and salads served before the meeting.

7:45 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Swearing in of 2018 Officers: 2018 LI ABATE Board Officers sworn in by **Suffolk County Legislator, Rudy Saunderman**. *Jim thanked all the 2017 board officers for their efforts and looks forward to a productive year with the 2018 board.*

Suffolk County Legislator Rudy Saunderman, 3rd legislative district, praised LIABATE for educating the public about motorcycle safety and awareness, as well as encouraging the training of motorcyclists. As a former firefighter, fire chief, first responder and teacher at the Suffolk County Fire Academy, Legislator Saunderman appreciates the importance of what we do. He went on to address quality of life issues he wants to address as a legislator, including treatment and education of drug abuse and vacant houses. He responded to questions from the membership.

Introduction of 2018 LI ABATE Board: **President** Jim Barr, **1st Vice-President** Nick La Mort, **2nd Vice-President Newsletter / Website** Nancy G, **Treasurer** Bill Quinn, **Membership** George DeMott, **Sgt. At Arms** Chris Beckans, **Legislative Liaison / Safety Officer** Mike Lauro, **Recording Secretary** Roseann Barr, **Public Relations / Volunteer Coordinator** Andrea Matzner, **Products** Kathy Pfeil, **Road Captain** Joe Pizzo, **Chaplin** Gerry Waldron.

Welcome new members and guests.

There was no membership meeting in December. The minutes for our last membership meeting, November 2017, were published in the January 2018 newsletter.

Motion 1-2018: Motion to accept November 2017 membership meeting minutes as published in the January 2018 newsletter. (Seconded) All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Jim gave treasurer's report in Bill's absence. *A voluntary donation jug to begin collecting for our 2018 Veterans fund was passed around. Bill, again, was able to secure three benefactors who will match all funds raised. Thank you to all who donated.*

Motion 2-2018: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.

Committee Reports

George / Membership: George reported 1,973 members on the books. 5 new members were signed up at tonight's meeting.

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 George or Nancy know and the e-mail data base will be updated.

Nancy /2nd Vice-President / Website: Nancy continues to update the website. A *Google* calendar has been installed. Members can click on a date on the calendar and a list of events will come up for that date. **Newsletter:** Anyone wishing to advertise in our monthly newsletter, please contact Nancy.

Mike / Legislative Officer: Legislation that Mike will be focusing on this year include motorcycle profiling and revised exhaust pipe legislation. **Safety Officer:** Mike will work with Suffolk County Legislator Saunderman regarding road conditions. If anyone knows of a dangerous pothole, please let Mike know of the location. Mike reminds motorcyclists to check tire pressure before riding during the cold winter months. Mike cautions riders about slick roads.

Andrea /Public Relations: Andrea is excited about taking on public relations. She will be highlighting LI ABATE throughout the years, beginning with it's inception as a chapter of ABATE of NY. **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.

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: Winter products are available at all LI ABATE membership meetings. (crew sweatshirts \$15, zippered sweatshirts \$25, hoodies \$20, long sleeved shirts \$20, embroidered LI ABATE knit hats \$15)

Guest Speakers

Caldwell Banker Realtors Scott, a representative from the national office and local broker **Ron Starrantino**, spoke about the *Real Estate Advantage Program*, a nationwide program through Caldwell Banker Real Estate offered to LI ABATE members. Through this program, LI ABATE members will receive cash back when buying or selling property through a Caldwell Banker real estate agent. LI ABATE members will be linked with agent Ron Starrantino, a motorcycle enthusiast and LIABATE member. He will give back 20% of his commission at the conclusion of

a property purchase or sale. Ron also encourages members to call for a free, no obligation home appraisal.

Margaret, Mama Dukes, works for Motorcycle Mike Esq. She explained how they conduct monthly focus groups, or mock trials, where “jurors” will listen to the attorney’s case, then be questioned by the attorney for feedback. “Jurors” will be compensated \$60 for 2 ½ hours of their time. A focus group will be held Wednesday, Jan. 17, then will occur monthly. If anyone is interested, please contact Mama Dukes for further information or to fill out a survey.

Old Business

LI ABATE 2018 Motorcyclist Handbook: Nancy will begin working on the 2018 Motorcyclist Handbook. If anyone is interested in advertising, please let Nancy know. Advertising prices remain the same as last year, \$100 for a full-page ad and \$50 for a half-page ad. (If advertising art is needed, an additional \$25 fee will be imposed.)

NYS Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee Grant: LI ABATE was awarded \$29,400 for the year 2018, for educational and awareness materials to spread the motorcycle awareness message to the public sector. **Debbie Stondell** volunteered to help administer this grant.

NY Motorcycle Show at the Jacob Javits Center was held December 1-3. Jim thanked all who volunteered at our booth. LI ABATE paid for a 10x20 booth, which was reimbursed by **AIM Attorney, Mitch Proner**. ABATE of NY and CMRA were also invited to participate at this booth.

LI ABATE participated in a chili cook-off at Spirit’s Promise Horse Rescue on November 18. We did not place in the top four. All proceeds benefitted our Veterans.

WACO update: The first of the defendants, **Jake Carrizal , Dallas President of Bandidos MC**, went on trial. The evidence presented did not prove that Jake committed a crime, resulting in a hung jury. Most jurists polled did not feel he was guilty. A new trial date has been set for April. A second defendant was offered a one year deferred probation for pleading guilty to a misdemeanor charge. He otherwise faces a 25 to life sentence if convicted. The defendant declined the offer, determined to prove his innocence. Convictions in these cases will have ripple effects for motorcyclists throughout the country.

New Business

LI ABATE meeting location: Suffolk County membership meetings will continue at the current Ronkonkoma FD location. The Ronkonkoma FD has been charging LI ABATE \$50 per meeting to use this hall. At a recent FD board meeting, it was decided to raise meeting fees for all organizations to \$150 per meeting. This fee was deferred for LI ABATE until July 2018.

Organizational Meeting for all the motorcycle clubs on Long Island will take place on January 13th. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss runs and events for 2018. Representatives from LI ABATE will attend this meeting.

Oyster Bay Supervisor Joe Saladino and Jim met backstage at a *Marshall Tucker* concert. Jim spoke about LI ABATE. Supervisor Saladino expressed interest and agreed to post motorcycle awareness signs along town roadways.

ABATE of NY treasurer was asked to resign. He refused. Impeachment proceedings are underway for alleged misuse of funds.

LI ABATE Run / Event List

LI ABATE runs / events will be confirmed after the organizational meeting.

Motorcycle Clubs Runs / Events

Cold Finger Run: Run has been delayed until Sunday January 14. If the weather is poor, the run will be cancelled but the after party at *Grille in the Ville*, Farmingville, will continue.

HAMCLI Dinner Dance: February 25 @ Watermill Inn, Nesconset Hwy, Smithtown. \$85 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.*)

Debbie / Am Vets Ladies Auxiliary 48: Debbie thanked LI ABATE for the donation received from the 2017 Veterans Appreciation Fund. With those funds, they were able to donate 80 gift bags containing blankets, hats, scarfs, gloves, personal care kits, chocolates and a \$20 gift card for the veterans in the Northport Beacon House Emergency Shelter. Also included in the gift bag was a heartfelt card stating "Thank you for your service. You are not forgotten." These gift bags were greatly appreciated by our veterans.

50/50: \$90 to the winner. Thank you to **Mark, USVMC** who generously donated \$60 of his winnings to the Veterans Appreciation Fund.

Motion 3-2018: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:17.

