

Long Island ABATE 6-12-18 Membership Meeting, Ronkonkoma, NY

BBQ before the meeting.

7:34 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome new members and guests.

The minutes for our May 2018 membership meeting were published in the June 2018 newsletter and on the LI ABATE website.

**Motion 12-2018: Motion to accept May 2018 membership meeting minutes as published in the June 2018 newsletter. (Seconded) All in favor.**

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

**Motion 13-2018: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.**

### **Committee Reports**

**George / Membership:** To date, there are 2,032 members on the books. May and June renewal letters are being sent out. George is focusing on getting expired members to renew. 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.***

**Joe / Road Captain:** Joe thanked all who helped with parking and road guarding on the Veterans Appreciation Run. He also thanked local law enforcement and the **Suffolk County Deputy Sheriffs** for escorting the run.

**Kathy / Products:** There are a limited number of 2018 Veterans Appreciation Run t-shirts available for \$15. *Thank you to Kathy and Bill Forrester for the great artwork on the t-shirts.* Over \$2,300 in products were sold at the Vets Run.

### **Old Business**

**2018 LI ABATE Scholarships:** LI ABATE will be awarding three scholarships this year: two \$500 scholarships for graduating high school seniors and one \$500 scholarship for an already matriculating student in either a college or vocational school program. Scholarship applications are posted on our website. LI ABATE members' children and grandchildren are eligible to apply. Applications are due by June 30, 2018.

**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. This year we will focus our awareness campaign on reducing the number of serious motorcycle accidents due to a driver making a left turn in front of a motorcyclist. We have purchased \$3,000 worth of lawn signs displaying this message. We have also submitted proposals for highway signs, billboard truck rental, signs on Suffolk County buses, etc, which unfortunately have been denied by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. Jim and Mike rode to Albany to meet with the area coordinator from this committee to discuss what we had hoped to achieve through this type of media messaging. Some progress was obtained, although many proposals continue to be denied. In addition, with assistance from **Lotus, ABATE of Oklahoma**, LI ABATE has submitted a new grant application for \$79,700 for 2019.

**Motorcycle Awareness Signs:** Permits have been obtained to post motorcycle awareness signs along Suffolk County roads through the summer. We continue to look for volunteers to help post these signs. LI ABATE member, **Pat O'Hara**, spoke with **Babylon Town Clerk Gerry Compitello**, and asked her if she would permit the posting of motorcycle awareness signs in the Town of Babylon. She was very receptive, and at this time, 4 signs have been posted by the Town of Babylon.

**Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team** travel the country to play softball and encourage veterans, and others, that they can live their life to the fullest, even though gravely injured. On 5/20 the team played at the Medford Sports Complex. The PGR, USVMC and LI ABATE provided the team a motorcycle escort to the ballfield. The WWAST also sold t-shirts to raise money for the team's travel expenses. **NY Coordinator, Joe Bart**, made a donation to the LI ABATE Veterans Appreciation Fund for each shirt sold, totaling \$250. In addition, the team donated a signed home plate, which was auctioned off for \$350, proceeds also going to the Veterans Appreciation Fund.

**National Coalition of Motorcycles:** 5/10 - 12, Alabama. Jim and George attend, and were able to network with motorcyclists from across the country. Expenses were picked up by **Proner and Proner, Attorneys at Law**.

**MRF Bikers in the Beltway:** 5/14 – 15, Legislative Lobby Day. Jim, Nick and Mike attended. One of the legislative priorities was the anti-profiling of motorcyclists. **Congressman Peter King** was very receptive to this legislation as was **Congressman Lee Zeldin**, who is already a co-sponsor of this legislation. LI ABATE picked up the expenses for this trip.

**Port Jefferson Parking:** LI ABATE has been renting 50 parking spots in the Town of Brookhaven parking lot in order to provide **free** and **unlimited** parking for motorcyclists. We will do this again for the 2018 riding season. This costs LI ABATE \$2500 for the year. While we do not

mandate that motorcycles park in this designated area, we do encourage motorcyclists to take advantage of this free, unlimited parking space, as parking on Main St. is strictly limited to 30 minutes (they do chalk tires) for all motorists.

**Lynyrd Skynyrd** will be playing at Jones Beach 6/23. If anyone is interested in going to the show and selling CD's before the show, they can get in for free. CD's are of Skynyrd's greatest hits and will cost \$20 (\$10 will go to the band and \$10 will go to the **Shriner's Children's Hospital**). Please contact Jim if interested.

**WACO update:** In the trials that LI ABATE has been following, the first resulted in a hung jury. The second defendant was offered a plea deal to a misdemeanor charge, which he refused. (He otherwise faced a 25 to life sentence if convicted.) The charges against him were ultimately dropped. Amidst allegations of corruption and obstruction of justice by the current district attorney, motorcyclists put up an alternate candidate who won the primary in March. Of the 192 arrested, all but 25 cases have been dismissed. LI ABATE is following the Waco story closely, and has stated that these types of arrests, with no probable cause, were wrong. If the prosecution had been successful ripple effects would have been felt by motorcyclists throughout the country.

### **New Business**

**Veterans Appreciation Run** was a great success. This year we will end the run at Havens Beach in Sag Harbor, to honor Lance Corporal **Jordan Haerter**, on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death in Ramadi, Iraq, along with other veterans with close ties to Sag Harbor who gave the ultimate sacrifice. We also honored the Leathernecks MC. With over 500 motorcycles in attendance, over \$9,000 was brought in, along with over an additional \$7,200 in donations. Bill wanted to thank the following for their very generous donations: **Mitch Proner Esq., Leathernecks MC, Vietnam Veterans Assoc., Ch 11, Teamster Horsemen Assoc., Rolling Thunder Long Island, USVMC, American Legions, Riders of Fire MC.** *All proceeds from this run will be quadrupled and given to local Veterans organizations. To date, with these matching funds, we have raised over \$99,000. Since 2012, including the proceeds thus far in 2018, LI ABATE has donated over \$550,000 to local Veteran organizations.* The after party, held at the Riverhead Elks, was also a great success, as we have heard many positive comments. Thank you to Joe, our grillmaster, and all those who volunteered to cook and serve, and a special thank you to the band **Sucker Punch**, for donating their time.

LI ABATE has been promoting our organization and our mission through various media outlets. **Maureen Griffin** invited Jim and Nancy to speak on her radio show on 1288 AM, and **Indian Bill**, videographer and producer of *American Rider*, filmed an interview with Jim and posted on *YouTube*.

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

**August 18-19** - LI ABATE Annual Campout. Presale tickets are now available @ \$30. (Tickets will be \$40 the day of the campout.)

**November 4** – Food and Toy Run

**December 8** – Holiday Party

## **LI ABATE Booths**

**June 23** – Nassau Harley

**September 12 – 16** – Catskill Mountain Thunder @ Blackthorn, Durham, NY

*If anyone is interested in volunteering at a LI ABATE booth, please contact Nancy. We greatly appreciate any assistance.*

## **Motorcycle 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. *Approximately 20-30 veterans are buried each month with no family in attendance. Karen encourages anyone to be a part of the flag line and honor those who served our country.*

*If anyone is interested in joining the Patriot Guard Riders, go to PGRNY.org to sign up. There is no registration fee or dues. You will receive e-mails with the dates and times of PGR missions.*

**Bikers for Christ MM / Rushing Wind Biker Church:** 6/16 Down Biker Run, \$20pp. Run begins at the Rushing Wind Biker Church and ends at Motorcycle Mike's.

**Rhinebeck Antique Motorcycle show and Swap Meet** - 6/15-16.

**Founding Sons Law Enforcement / Military MC:** 7/22, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Kick Stands Up Motorcycle Poker Run and Car Show. 11am -4pm @ Amphitheater at Bald Hill. KSU Registration 8-10, KSU11am, \$20 motorcycles and cars. *Proceeds to benefit homeless veterans.*

**US Veterans MC National** – 8/5 Mid-summer bash

**Alliance MC** – 8/19 Life Ride Event, Eisenhower Park. State Troopers will escort this ride.

**America's 9-11 Foundation Ride:** 8/16 meet in Somerset, PA to ride to Shanksville, PA. 8/17 ride from Somerset, PA to Pentagon. 8/18 ride from Pentagon to Ground Zero, NYC. Ride limited to 600 bikes. \$160rider / \$40 passenger. Ride will be fully escorted. For more information go to [Americas9-11FoundationRide.org](http://Americas9-11FoundationRide.org).

**Leathernecks MC** – 10/21 - 17<sup>th</sup> annual VA Hospital Run. Reg. 9:00 Marine Corps League, Massapequa, \$20 rider / \$10 passenger. (includes food, music, door prizes)

**Open Floor**

**Steak Dinner at the Riverhead Polish Hall:** 6/14, \$30pp. *All proceeds from the 50/50 and the raffles will go to LI ABATE's Veterans Appreciation Fund.* LI ABATE has reserved 2 tables. For tickets, see Bill or Jim or contact [mikeosip@optonline.net](mailto:mikeosip@optonline.net) .

**50/50:** \$150 to the winner. *Thank you to **Rich Pinnavaia** for donating all of his winnings to the Veterans Appreciation Fund.*

**Motion 13-2018: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.