

Long Island ABATE 1-8-19 Membership Meeting, Ronkonkoma, NY

Heroes and salads served before the meeting.

7:33 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Swearing in of 2019 Officers: 2019 LI ABATE Board Officers sworn in by **New York State Assemblyman Doug Smith**. *Jim thanked all the 2018 board officers for their efforts and looks forward to a productive year with the 2019 board.*

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:** Josephine Leonardi, **Volunteer Coordinator** Gary Hart, **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 2018, were published in the January 2019 newsletter and posted on the LI ABATE website.

Motion 1-2019: Motion to accept November 2018 membership meeting minutes as published in the January 2019 newsletter and posted on the LI ABATE website. (Seconded) All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Jim gave treasurer's report in Bill's absence. LI ABATE was reimbursed from the NYSGTSC Grant in the amount of \$3750 for lawn signs purchased. *A voluntary donation jug to begin collecting for our 2019 Veterans fund was passed around. Bill, again, was able to secure three benefactors who will match all funds raised. Thank you to USVMC for their generous donation of \$2000 toward the 2019 Veterans Fund.*

Motion 2-2019: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.

Committee Reports

Nancy /2nd Vice-President / Website: Nancy continues to update the website. *Thank you Ron for all the pictures submitted for the website and newsletter.* **Newsletter:** Anyone wishing to advertise in our monthly newsletter, please contact Nancy. She also encourages members to submit articles about recent trips, etc. for publication in the newsletter.

George / Membership: George reported that LI ABATE has over 2100 members. George is requesting volunteers to help him stuff envelopes for membership renewals at his office in Bohemia. Please contact George if you have any time to volunteer.

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.

Mike / Legislative Officer: The new Legislative session starts tomorrow. Mike will be monitoring bills pertaining to motorcycling. **Safety Officer:** Mike will be compiling a list of state, county and town contact information. If anyone knows of a dangerous pothole, please let Mike know of the location.

Josephine /Public Relations: If anyone knows of a business that is interested in giving discounts to LI ABATE members in exchange for free advertising in our newsletter, please let Josephine know. **Brian Durkin Plumbing and Heating** offers 10% discount to all LI ABATE members.

Volunteer Coordinator: Gary 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 Gary 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: *Thank you to Russell and Sue for selling products at tonight's meeting in Kathy's absence.*

Old Business

NY Motorcycle Show at the Jacob Javits Center was held November 30 – December 2. All expenses incurred will be reimbursed through the 2019 NYSGTSB grant. Jim thanked all the volunteers who covered the booth. LI ABATE received a lot of exposure. *LI ABATE will also be participating in the Javits Car Show, beginning April 19th.*

LI ABATE 2018 Holiday Party was at a new location, *The Grille in the Ville, Farmingville.* Feedback on this venue was very positive, as was the feedback on **Todd Grossman**, the guitar man.

LI ABATE Truck: LI ABATE purchased a 1997 Ford F350 box truck for \$2500. Chris and Mike worked on the truck, and it is now running well. The box is water tight and truck has a built in ramp, which will be able to tow bikes that break down during runs. The truck will hold booth supplies and products. The box will be a traveling billboard.

Court Cases: LI ABATE is actively monitoring the case of Deris Medlock, the driver who hit **Chris and Rose Pesce** while on their motorcycle, then left the scene of the accident. Charges have been upgraded from misdemeanor to felony charges. LI ABATE will send out e-mail notifications on future court dates pertaining to this case. While in court, LI ABATE was introduced to the new District Attorney Bureau Chief, who is familiar with our organization and looks forward to working with us.

Motorcycle Riders Foundation tracking software will track any and all bills pertaining to motorcycles. MRF proposes that SMROs pay a nominal monthly fee, \$25, to track legislation pertaining to motorcycles on a state level. LI ABATE paid \$300 to access this software for 2019. The e-mail addresses of three board members, who will be utilizing this software, was submitted to the MRF.

MRF Ballot: LI ABATE received a ballot to vote for a candidate for the position of MRO representative. David Dwyer won the election.

WACO update: Of the initial 150+ indictments, all but 25 cases have been dismissed. Of these 25 cases, 22 have been indicted on rioting charges. The new District Attorney took office in January. He is reevaluating these cases.

New Business

LI ABATE meeting locations: Suffolk County membership meetings will continue at the current Ronkonkoma FD location, the second Tuesday of each month. Nassau County membership meetings will continue to be held at the Marine Corp League, the third Tuesday of each month.

LI ABATE 2019 Motorcyclist Handbook: Nancy will begin working on the 2019 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: 2019 New York State Governor's Traffic and Safety Board Grant: LI ABATE was approved for \$31,000 for 2019 for educational and awareness materials to emphasize motorcycle awareness to the public sector. We will continue to focus on drivers turning left in front of motorcycles.

National Anti-Profilng Bill: MRF is lobbying to get a national anti-profilng bill for motorcyclists. (Currently only the states of Washington and Maryland have such a law.) In December 2018, the US Senate voted 100-0 to pass an anti-profilng bill for motorcyclists. This bill, however, did not reach the House of Representatives, therefore the MRF will reintroduce this bill for the 2019 session.

Organizational Meeting for all the motorcycle clubs on Long Island will take place on January 19th. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss runs and events for 2019. Representatives from LI ABATE will attend this meeting.

Full Throttle Magazine has gone digital. There are no longer print copies available. Advertising rates have been discounted.

Coalition of Clubs and Independents, Austin TX. Legislative lobby day 1/28, pre-meeting 1/27. Jim will be attending to again show LI ABATE's support of Texas motorcyclists.

MRF Bikers in the Beltway: National legislative lobby day, 5/21/19. Jim will attend.

Rolling Thunder, Washington DC: This year will be the last Rolling Thunder, 5/26/19, to honor our veterans and remember our POWs.

Motorcycle Endorsements: It was rumored that the motorcycle endorsement on your driver's license will be removed when you reach a certain age. This is **not true**. You do not loose your motorcycle endorsement.

LI ABATE Run / Event List

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

Motorcycle Clubs 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.

HAMCLI Dinner Dance: February 10 @ Watermill Inn, Nesconset Hwy, Smithtown. *LI ABATE members have purchased tickets for a table.*

LI HOG: Pat O'Hara was appointed LI HOG assistant director.

Mike / President Indian Motorcycle Riders Group: meetings held second Saturday of the month.

George / Commander Am Vets Post 1174: Thanked LI ABATE for funds received from the Veterans Appreciation Fund. George proposed that LI ABATE run a 6month fundraiser calendar. Details to follow.

Debbie / Am Vets Ladies Auxiliary 48: Debbie thanked LI ABATE for the donation received from the 2018 Veterans Appreciation Fund. They used the funds to make gift bags for homeless veterans. In addition to the gift bags, containing blankets, hats, scarfs, gloves, personal care kits, chocolates, a gift card and a heartfelt card stating "Thank you for your service. You are not forgotten", veterans received a holiday dinner.

Floor

Big Apple Motorcycle School : Three wheel motorcycle lessons; 8 hours riding and 8 hours classroom, \$99.

50/50: \$80 to the winner.

Motion 3-2019: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:18.