

Long Island ABATE 5-14-19 Membership Meeting, Ronkonkoma, NY

Bbq before the meeting.

7:33 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome new members and guests.

The minutes for our April 2019 membership meeting were posted on the LI ABATE website.

**Motion 11-2019: Motion to accept April 2019 membership meeting minutes as posted on the LI ABATE website. (Seconded) All in favor.**

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

**Motion 12-2019: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.**

### **Committee Reports**

**George / Membership:** George is requesting volunteers to help him stuff envelopes for membership renewals at his office in Bohemia, the first Tuesday of each month. Please contact George if you can 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.

**Josephine /Public Relations:** Josephine will be distributing flyers for the Veterans Appreciation Run. If anyone would like to help with the distribution of LI ABATE event flyer, please let Josephine know.

**Gary / 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.

### **Old Business**

**LI ABATE 2019 Motorcyclist Handbook:** The LI ABATE 2019 Motorcyclist Handbook was again sold out! This is a great fundraiser for LI ABATE. The centerfold has a list of motorcycle runs / events. *There is one mistake on the run list. HALI should be June 2.* Handbooks are now available. *Thank you again Nancy for all the work you put into the handbook.*

**LI ABATE Lottery:** LI ABATE will be fundraising through a 6month daily drawing, based on NYS evening daily numbers. The lottery will run from July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Tickets are now available at \$20 each. We can sell up to 1,000 tickets. *All winnings will be mailed. Sunday win pays \$60, Saturday win pays \$50, weekday wins pay \$40 and bonus days / holidays (which are listed on the ticket) pay \$100.*

**LI ABATE Headquarters:** LI ABATE is looking for headquarters large enough to hold our monthly meetings as well as to open an educational and training center. A building in Centereach, on Middle Country Road, became available. Jim researched the feasibility of renting this space, and found out that the building is zoned residential, therefore not useable for our purposes. Jim, and other board members, looked at three other locations, however, none were suitable.

**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. Many of our ideas were not approved, therefore we will not be utilizing the entire grant. We will not be reapplying for this grant next year due to excessive restrictions. LI ABATE is currently pursuing grant applications through Charity Net, the company that assisted us in our original 501C3 application. This company will help to write the grant application and send the final application to ten different foundations pertaining to our goals.

**LI ABATE Lifetime Memberships:** Annual membership to LI ABATE is \$20. Lifetime memberships are available at the discounted rate of \$15 per year up to 25 years. *If a member pays annually, after 25 years member would automatically become a lifetime member.*

**Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team fundraiser:** to be held May 17 @ 7:30 at Katies in Smithtown. There is a \$10 charge (\$8 to go to WWAST and \$2 to go to LI ABATE Veterans Appreciation Fund).

**Empire State Motorcycle Safety Education Program: Don Gomo, President ESMSEP,** will be *strategies, road awareness and more*). Check website [www.motorcyclesafetyprogram.org](http://www.motorcyclesafetyprogram.org) for dates, times and locations of seminars throughout April, May and June.

### **New Business**

**2019 LI ABATE Scholarships:** LI ABATE will be awarding two scholarships this year: one \$1,000 scholarship for graduating high school senior and one \$1,000 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, 2019.

**Military Appreciation Award:** LI ABATE will be awarding \$500 to a graduating high school senior who will be entering the military. Application is available on the LI ABATE website and is due by June 30, 2019.

**Diane Ortiz** from **Big Apple Motorcycle School** spoke about cars turning left in front of motorcycles. She asked riders what they do / can do to avoid such a collision. Responses included: making yourself more visible, lane position, having an escape route, slowing down, etc. *Unfortunately, riders cannot trust that drivers are aware of an approaching motorcycle. Riders must pay attention and assume the driver is distracted or doesn't see them.* Diane donated two 8 hour classes for 3 wheelers.

**Lawn Signs:** New lawn signs are available. The signs continue to focus on the danger of turning left in front of a motorcycle. *The lawn signs were funded through the NYSGTS grant.*

**New LI ABATE Website:** **Mitch Proner** is hiring a company to build and maintain an interactive website for LI ABATE. This is currently a work in progress.

**World Traffic Safety Symposium** was held at the Javits Center. This symposium was mainly directed toward car safety. Jim attended representing the motorcycle community. The subject of autonomous cars was brought up. It was stated that these cars cannot consistently recognize when a motorcycle is near. *MRF is lobbying that autonomous vehicles **must recognize motorcycles consistently.***

**Motorcycle Awareness Press Conference:** NYS DMV Deputy Commissioner, along with the Nassau County Police Department and MSF held a press conference in Nassau County about motorcycle awareness. Unfortunately, the only media that took the time to be present was **FIOS**. It remains up to us to spread the word about motorcycle awareness.

**Suffolk County Police Department** and **LI ABATE** have partnered together to get the motorcycle awareness message out. Jim reached out to **Chief of Department Stu Cameron** who put Jim and Mike in contact with **Deputy Inspector David Regina** and **Lieutenant Kenneth Holvik**, both of the Highway Patrol Bureau. All were receptive to working together. A motorcycle awareness message was put on the SCPD Facebook page, with over 130,000 followers. The message was linked to LI ABATE.

**US Veterans Motorcycle Club** presented Jim and Bill with a plaque in appreciation for all LI ABATE does for veterans.

**ABATE of NY Freedom Rally** will be held Monday 5/20. This rally gives motorcyclists the opportunity to lobby at the NYS Capitol in Albany.

**MRF Bikers in the Beltway** will be 5/21. This gives motorcyclists the opportunity to lobby their Senators and Congressional Representatives in Washington D.C.

**Rolling Thunder, Washington D.C.** will take place Sunday 5/26.

**Riverhead Polish Hall** is hosting a Flag Day Buffet, 6/14. Tickets are \$35 each. All profits will be donated to LI ABATE Veterans Appreciation Fund. *Please see Bill for tickets.*

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

**Veterans Appreciation Run:** Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Sign up 9 – 11:15 @ Riverhead Elks. KSU 12:00. Scenic ride will go over the Jordan Herder Bridge in Sag Harbor and loop back to the Riverhead Elks for a barbeque. \$20 each person. *All funds raised will again be quadrupled.*

**LI ABATE Annual Campout:** August 17-18

### **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](http://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.*

**Rushing Wind Biker Church MM** – Down Biker Run, 6/29. Registration 12 -1:30 @ church, 11 Peachtree Ct. (corner of Lincoln Ave and Peachtree Ct. north of Veterans Hwy.) \$20 donation. After party 3:45 @ church. *All money raised goes back to the motorcycle community.*

**Antique car and bike show:** Bayport Aerodrome 5/19

**Veterans Appreciation Day: Nassau County Operation Wounded Warrior** is sponsoring a Veterans Appreciation Day Saturday 8/10. **LI ABATE** will be sponsoring the motorcycle run from Home Depot, Farmingdale to Eisenhower Park. **Southside Car Club** will be organizing a car and bike show. Live music by local bands. Additional information to follow.

**50 /50:** \$105 to the winner. *4 pairs of Yankee tickets given as consolation prizes, compliments of Rich Rossi.*

**Motion 13-2019: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor.** Meeting adjourned at 9:30.