

LONG ISLAND ABATE INC.

MEETING MINUTES – Tuesday, January 14, 2025

LOCATION: Elks Lodge; 41 Horseblock Road, Centereach, NY

Doors Opened at 6:00 PM

Board Members in attendance:

President - Chris Beckhans

1st Vice President – Nick LaMorte

2nd Vice President – Josephine Leonardi

Membership Officer - Donna Fowler

Sergeant At Arms – Bill Bartasek

Legislative Liaison / MRF / Lottery / Public Relations - Debbie Stondell

Products - Kathy Pfeil / Donna Fowler

Chaplain / Health & Wellness Coordinator – Gerry Waldron

Donations Coordinator - Position Open

Secretary – Lisa Sheil

The regular meeting of the Long Island ABATE was called to order at 7:30 PM on January 14, 2025 at the Elks Lodge by Chris Beckhans.

Pledge of Allegiance – Joe Schmid / Bill Bartasek

Guest/New Member: Niel Foley, presented Board with Certificates and swore in the Board members present. Niel then spoke about Brookhaven Town.

Note: There was no general meeting in December 2024.

Chris introduced Bill Bartasek as the new Sergeant At Arms as Joe Schmid has stepped down.

Treasurer Report made by Chris Beckhans as the Treasurer was not at the meeting.

General Account:

Opening Balance \$25,179.38

Paid checks Totaling \$1,000.00 for rent and holiday party expenses

Deposits from Square One \$602.48

ATM & Auto Withdrawal total \$461.66

Balance in General Account as of 12/31/24 \$24,320.20

Vets Account

Starting Balance \$56,151.57

Paid Out for disbursement checks \$12,000.00
8 checks have not been cashed \$18,250.00
Balance as of 12/31/24 \$44,151.57
No deposits made.

Motion #2 made to accept the Treasurer report for December 2024, motion 2nd and carried.

-Nick LaMorte attended the Nassau Traffic Safety meeting.

-We attended the Suffolk Toy Drive and a couple bags of toys to Ronald McDonald house were collected.

-Abate Christmas party had a good showing and a good night was had by all.

-Abate placed wreaths at Calverton Cemetery on 12/14/24.

-The Abate truck was used for Frogzz Toy Drive around the Lake on 12/15/24. The toys were then dropped off at an elementary school.

-The Bikers for Christ Christmas event was on 12/21/24.

-Suffolk County Grant Ideas – Place PSAs on back of buses. Working with other agencies to get the word out.

-Working on PSAs. Try to get Niel Foley on board for a PSA.

-Looking for a Donations Coordinator. If someone wants to step up or recommend someone see Chris Beckhans.

-There is a new position, Health and Wellness Coordinator. Gerry is now taking this position on.

-Bill Quinn is cutting back. We now have a new person to prepare our taxes. Maureen, which is Pat McDonald's sister.

Update from Josephine Leonardi.

-Working together for Augusts Campout.

-Looking forward to getting out in the community.

Update from Deb Stondell

-Lottery – Presented LI Abate with a check totaling \$2000. For the final lottery numbers, people can see Deb.

-Rep for the MRF which is nationwide, talked about people joining and legislation for the upcoming Meeting of the Minds.

-Wreaths – We did well with placement, 10,000 more than expected. Except we did get the wrong truck. The truck we got was for Brooklyn.

-Picking up wreaths at Calverton is at 9:00am, Section 42 on 1/18/25. Wreaths are then recycled after being dumped.

-Once everyone is sworn in at the Government, Deb will reach out for PSAs. Deb does have some people lined up to do PSAs.

-Nick LaMorte was late and was sworn in by Niel Foley.

Update from Nick LaMorte

-Attended the 1/14/25 6th Precinct in Selden for the monthly meeting.

-Also attended the 1st Precinct meeting.

-1/15/25 – Meeting at 4th Precinct at 2:00pm to give update on the ABATE Driver's Ed program. Nick will also bring up the wire guard rails.

Update from Donna Fowler

-Working on Membership and requested if someone does not receive anything, to please reach out to her.

Vets Jug collected \$144 with match the total is \$576

Margaret has been working on the website and emails.

Update from Gary Hart

-Thanking all volunteers and looking forward to working with everyone.

-Awareness Run is 4/27/25. Putting call out for volunteers and riders.

Update from Gerry Waldron

- Discussed Rushing Wind Christmas Party. Food was delicious and the presentation was good.
- Discussed being the new Health & Wellness Coordinator and to let him know if anyone has a need.

Update from Jim Barr – COIR

-Florida is following LI Abate lead and all members were to be signed up with National COIR. National COIR will have over 10,000 members.

NEW BUSINESS

Event Chairs:

- Hand Book – Josephine Leonardi
- Awareness Run – Gary Hart 4/27/25
- Veterans Run – Bill Quinn 6/8/25
- Camp Out – Josephine Leonardi & Sherril / Gary Hart 8/23/25
- St. Mary’s Run – Constantine Mourelatos 11/2/25
- Christmas Party – Chris Beckhans 12/12/25

Update – Presenters

- Chris Beckhans thanked all the presenters for doing such a good job at the driver’s ed programs.
- Per Bruce LePorte, the Traveling Memorial Wall for Fallen Bikers made 195 Motorcycle Awareness and Safety Education Presentations to 3,933 high school driver’s education students from 171 different high schools in 26 different NY State Counties.
- Since 2012 the Traveling Memorial Wall for Fallen Bikers made 862 presentations to 18,933 students from 276 schools in 35 different NY counties.
- In 2024 LI Abate made 81 presentations to 2,083 students from 102 different schools.
- Since 2023 LI Abate has made 106 presentations to 2,595 students.
- Chris will ask Bruce to bring the wall to the Awareness Run.

Upcoming Events

1/18/25 – Wreath pick up at Calverton.

1/18/25 – Abate of NY in Buffalo for state meeting. Chris Beckhans plans to attend.

1/24/25 to 1/26/25 – Abate of PA for L&L seminar. Training aspects for different topics ie computer skills, membership drives.

2/23/25 – Presenters meeting at the Elks – any interested in being presenters this is from 12pm to 4pm.

2/24/25 – Bruce LePorte will present at schools scheduled for Driver’s Ed presentations.

-ABATE Scheduling club / riding groups to do ABATE presentations to gain membership.

-Motorcycle Safety Update – Mark Briganti – Sets up practice locations for all skill levels.

****Parking Lot Practice Rats is his Facebook Page****

Mark tries to set up 1 session a month which is usually the last Saturday at the Southwest Parking Lot at the LIRR in Ronkonkoma.

-Sits on NYS Advisory to set up Motorcycle practices in the other boroughs. When you go to one of these practices you will need to sign a waiver for NY State.

-The Messenger Paper has our article about the Vets Run.

-Riverhead Paper has Deb Stondell's picture from St. Mary's Run.

50/50 total is \$135.00. \$68 to the winner. Ticket #442992 is the winner. The winner donated his winnings to the Vets.

Motion #3 by Deb Stondell to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and all were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:25 pm