

Hello Region 6!

Sorry in advance, but this article contains two meetings that have already taken place. Some of the information will be irrelevant because the dates have already expired. I hope that the information will be beneficial to the members who were not able to attend these meetings.

Our January meeting came to order at 1:12pm.

The pledge was recited and Jerry Soto gave the Treasury Report.

No Legislative Report.

We held a silent moment for the Memory of Elaine Bedell. She joined her husband David Bedell. in Heaven and they are at together once again. Lord knows Dave is bugging the living tar out of her.

Just as a friendly reminder, our meetings are held the second Sunday of every month at the Roadside Bar, 2241 N. Huron Rd. Pinconning, MI 48650. Our Next meeting will be February 11th, at 1pm. Hope to see you there.

It has been a long cold winter so far. ABATE Region 6 would like to organize a fun day for March 10th. One destination we are considering is the Farmers Tavern, in Ruth, MI. They are holding a all you can eat spaghetti dinner, from 3pm – 9pm. All funds raised will go to the MRF. Farmers Tavern will hold other fun events that day.

Farmers Tavern is located at 4522 Ruth Rd. Ruth, MI 48470.

If anyone has any ideas on where we should go or who can be the DD March10th during are fun run, please contact Beatrice Malleck at 989-493-9004. We are just looking at getting together as group and doing something fun as a Region.

During our February11th meeting, we will be voting on officer positions. If any one would like to run for office, please come to the meeting and run for the position of your choice.

Positions available are:

MRF

Legislative

Secretary

Treasury

RC

All positions are open for voting, I hope someone else wants my position! LOL!

We will be attending Region 7's MRF fundraiser on March 10th. We will discuss where to meet and time we will be leaving. If you didn't attend the meeting and would like to go, call me for more information at 989-493-9004.

As far as products, ABATE Region 6, no longer has products. You can go to the abateproducts@gmail.com to view all product available.

If you would like any products, Please contact: Sally VanCoppennolle at: 734-439-7376. She will be

happy to help you with any products you wish to order.
Heidi Barnard

Our February 11th, 2018 meeting came to order.

The Pledge was recited and Jerry Sotto gave the Treasury Report.

March's Legislative Report by Jeremy "Lil Ice Man" Bouvrette

Back from State Seminar in January fueled and ready to go. Made it to almost all the sessions with the exceptions to the ones I could not make due to ones I was already in. I want to say a BIG thank you to everyone that made a great seminar, and to those who gave me a hand so I was able to attend, to learn, and bring back to yous... Thank you isn't Thank you enough!!! Well, winter is on the downward stretch but not the issues we are working on. By the time you see this we will have already had our February 28th, in Lansing, Pizza and Pop Annual Event. I will be informing the region on what we learned while there at March 12th's Meeting.

-HB-4306 (Tedder) & SB-575 (Casperson): Passed and Signed by Governor. As expressed by Vince "That bill was way more grief and trouble than I ever anticipated." The legislative team did an outstanding job in getting HB 4306 done in 2017. So far, this bill puts Michigan as the only state that increased its funding for motorcycle safety in the country, and also created a motorcycle awareness fund. As stated before the S.O.S. COULD NOT INCREASE THE FEE's because their computer system is still on COBALT. SB 575, sponsored by Senator Casperson. He didn't like it either but it was the only option that started collecting money in 2018, changing the date of fund collection. The state won't do anything unless the MONEY is already collected.

Starting in 2018, (Stated by our President so you can understand it better) \$2.50 on an original endorsement will go into the motorcycle awareness fund. \$2.00 of a renewal fee will go into the motorcycle awareness fund. That raised the renewal to \$ 7.00. For 2018, and 2019 an additional \$2.00 increase in the renewal fee will go to the motorcycle safety education fund. The motorcycle plate fee could not be raised in 2018 because of the COBALT issue. The motorcycle plate fee will go up to \$25.00 per plate in 2019. The motorcycle renewal fee will go back to \$7.00 in 2020. DON'T FORGET WHEN YOUR CAR PLATES WENT UP IN 2017. ABATE STOPPED THE \$100.OO PLATE FEE INCREASE ON MOTORCYCLES

-HB-4480 (Hammoud) & SB-568 (Jones): Handlebar height limit is raised from 15" to 30". This aligns with surrounding state's standards. Call Jason Wentworth (R), Gary Glenn (R), Roger Hauck (R) for 6 and ask them to call and co-sponsor SB-568.

-HB-4919 (Barrett): Motorcycle parade/procession bill legalizes this for motorcycles so cars cannot interfere. Get Jason Wentworth (R), Gary Glenn (R), Roger Hauck (R) for 6 and ask them to call Barrett and co-sponsor HB-4919.

-HB-4466 (Howrylak): Makes it illegal to use phones while driving "for all vehicles" unless it's a "hands free" device... While moving AND at stop light/signs. Call Jason Wentworth (R), Gary Glenn (R), Roger Hauck (R) for 6 and ask them to call to support this.

-HB-4702/4703 (Kesto): Gang Bill Being reintroduced (Brought up first by the State Policed years ago, that we had to get some of the wording right to keep us, the American Legion, Boy/Girl Scouts, VFW, off of) from an issue in Pontiac from Sheriff. Keep/ing an eye out on this!!!

Along with the pieces above I am keeping close eye on with the others is This insurance reform that "Michigan drivers would no longer be required to buy unlimited medical insurance benefits to cover their injuries in case they were seriously injured in a crash". This piece was shot down and was voted a Big No on, but some still feel that it is important and will... and I mean WILL be back around. The Legislative Team thinks it will come back around sometime over Lame Duck, but any new info I get I

will pass along to you.

Going back, I didn't get much time to drink as I found myself in some good conversations with Megan from the MRF, Mike from AMA, Jay Jackson from ABATE IN and MRF VP. Megan Ekstrom "Vice-President of Government Affairs & Public Relations for the MRF", stated that with AEBT (Automatic Emergency Braking Technology) in these up and coming cars and trucks. Dynamic Research's project looked at the reliability of this warning system and found that between car to car, the warning system worked over 90% of the time. However, with a car approaching a stopped motorcycle, the warning system failed 40% of the time either warning the driver too late, or failing to warn the driver. Scary numbers if you ask me!

February 9th the MRF released its briefing put on by the Senate Motorcycle Caucus, the subject of automated vehicles or self-driving cars was examined through a different lens; the viewpoint of a motorcyclist. What was observed was in direct quote from the MRF... "Senators Gary Peters (D-MI) and Joni Ernst (R-IA) opened the briefing as the Chairs of the Caucus. Both avid riders, they discussed the need to be inclusive of all roadway users when advancing legislation and regulations related to the emerging technology. Both agreed that the Senate Bill - the AV START Act - and which Peters helped to author, would achieve this. Specifically, they addressed a section of the legislation that required automakers and technology developers to include motorcycle recognition, identification and responsiveness in a required safety report that would be reviewed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Panelists chosen to address the audience (packed with Congressional and Administration staff from the Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Highway Administration along with motorcycle industry representatives including Harley-Davidson, and the Motorcycle Riders Foundation) discussed that while automated driving technology could yield tremendous benefits for riders by helping to eliminate driver error, motorcyclists were wary of how they fit into this new driving environment.

At one point, the discussion turned to detection by other road users as a constant challenge for the nearly 8.5 million registered motorcycles in the U.S. Distracted driving is on the rise according to the latest reports from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the failure by some motorists to "see" motorcycles with their smaller profile can end in disastrous – and often fatal – consequences. But whether self-driving vehicles would actually improve this problem remains up for debate.

Panelists recognized the obvious need to make sure that automated vehicles would appropriately detect and respond to motorcyclists. However, some feared that this message has been diluted. The recent NHTSA guidance on driverless vehicles failed to mention motorcycles in this context whatsoever. Further reinforcing this concern was an incident last year involving a Tesla vehicle operating on autopilot. The vehicle struck a police officer on a motorcycle in Phoenix, AZ. Even recently, news reports surfaced about Chevy Bolt which allegedly veered into a motorcyclist while traveling on a San Francisco freeway while on autopilot.

Panelist John Lenekit from Dynamic Research discussed his preliminary research which reviewed a driver assist technology that was currently on the road; forward collision warning systems. Designed to alert the driver if they were too rapidly approaching the vehicle in front of them, this technology is widely-used in the current market, even coming standard on some makes and models..." This research lead into the discussion about what was needed to ensure motorcyclists' safety and the entire panel agreed that more motorcycle specific research was needed – and fast. We will again keep an eye on this growing issue and keep the membership informed as best we can with any new info that arises.

Feb 10th, Mama Bear and I went to a meet and greet for Gary Glenn, who is running for Mike Green's seat this year in the Senate (As Mike is termed out) at the Oven in Caro. This Event was also shared by Rep Ned Canfield, who was there to answer questions and support Glenn. It was a great opportunity to ask them about HB-5013 "Auto Medical Coverage Cap Insurance Reform Bill" that was Thankfully

voted down back in November of 17. Long story short it was only a very short event and a majority of the time was held up my local Wind Energy Complaints, but when we finally got to talk... We asked the 2 Reps (who I forgot to mention Senator Mike Green showed to show his support as well) about this bill, it's Cap, the movement to Medicare & Medicaid instead of Auto Med, the 20% reduction that really wasn't a reduction, the reasons for the "YES" votes (Correct, both Rep Glenn and Canfield voted YES for this horrendous bill proposal), and the research they used to help bring them to this Yes vote conclusion. First the rebuttals were met with a little anxiety, and answer that most catastrophic injuries never went over the \$250,000 cap that was put into the bill. Leading into that there would be certain "layers of the bill that gave everyone a chance to pick what amount of coverage they would still like" in turn dropping the overall cost (4 sections). At this point a lady representative from the Lighthouse (Neurological Rehabilitation Center) in Caro stood up and took over. Bringing up points of the other 2%, the lawsuits... I tell you she took over. When she finished, I asked if we could get a name and location on where the Representatives got their research info... I was informed to call their offices and/or stop in and they would provide, sounds like I will be slipping out on Feb 28th to make and "office call". Will also keep you informed on this!!!

This reminds me! If you can, jump in with Reg 6's tip to the Thumb for the MRF Spaghetti Dinner at the Farmers Tavern in Ruth on March 10th. \$10.00 all you can eat! 3 – 9 PM, ALL the proceeds go to the MRF, it is a great time and very very good food! Hope to see you out there! It is March, and spring is right around the corner, Motorcycles will be on the roads, what a sweet sound! Get ready, get informed, and be safe. For another month, , I'm Out!

Mr. Jim Barcia, has been a big time supporter of ABATE, Jim's wife Vicky has been battling cancer and we would like to wish her well and keep her in our prayers. Please use your power of prayer to help Vicky win her battle with cancer.

This year's Bike Raffle tickets are due back to Patty, August 1st. Our deadline for Bike tickets will be July 14th., at our Memorial Run. Our Memorial Run will meet up at the Roadside Bar. This way we have time to turn tickets in on time.

Bubba's Swap Meet in Birch Run will be April 22nd., we will sell Bike Tickets, Yard Signs and Membership at a booth during the Swap Meet.

This year Membership will be discounted like last year. New or 1 years or more expired members, \$20 to sign up.

For the month of May, there will be a special for Membership, anyone who signs up for two years will receive a free bike raffle ticket.

The State Field Meet tickets are available for \$20 per single person or \$35 for a couple until May 31st., after that date they are \$30 per person, on Saturday only they are \$25 at the gate. The State Field Meet will be held at West Side RV Campground 7381 Rapid City RD Rapid City, MI 49676.

Heidi Barnard