

Region 11 Meeting 1-31-18

- Meeting called to order at 7:12pm
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Walnut
- Tiny asked for a moment of silence for Paula's mom who passed away in December.
- Our Motorcycles Awareness Instructors taught a total of 324 students in 2017. Current instructors are Alice Jacob, Lil John, Chuck K, and Butch. If we could renew Chuck K and Butch's membership again this year (\$75.) motion accepted.
- Legislation read by Alice;
2018 is a local election year. This election is more important than the federal elections. We will be voting in a new legislature, and a new governor. Candidates will be hosting fundraisers, and walking neighborhoods. Don't ignore them if they come knocking on your door; invite him/her in and ask questions about how they would vote on motorcycle issues. Then pass that info along to Alice Jacob, or any other officer. The state needs that type of information to develop the ABATE voting list.

To facilitate getting to know the most out of Region11 candidates, last meeting authorized a \$500.00 cash for members to attend those fundraisers. So, if you receive an invite, and are willing to go, let Alice Jacob know and she will arrange to reimburse you for the fundraiser entry fee. State/federal laws prohibit a check coming directly from ABATE of Michigan; all checks must be from individuals, so that is why we cannot pay in advance for your attendance.

Election year also means that all legislation ABATE favors, needs to be passed by the end of the year. In 2019 we start all over with a new legislature, and all bills not passed by then will die; then we will have to start all over.

CURRENT ABATE LESISLATION

SB575- Increase motorcycle license fee, but delay implementation until 2019. Signed by the governor and passed into law on 12-28-17. Extra fees on endorsement/renewals will start to be collected on 1-20-18 of this

year, and collection of the increased registration fees will begin 2-19-19. A note of concern is the analysis states the endorsement increase “ends” on 12-31-19. Not sure what happens after that; still need to talk to Jim Rhodes on the new law.

HB4480- Motorcycle Handlebar height; modify from 15 inches to 30 inches. Still in Transportation & Infrastructure Committee; no change in bill status as of this date.

SB-568- Senate version of the bill; shortened to 1 paragraph. Passed by the Senate, sent to the House, and it was assigned to the House of Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, on 12-13-17. No further action by that committee.

HB4466- Distracted driving; prohibits using hand-held devices while driving. Clarifies what “distracted” is, and specifies vehicles manufactured with “hands-free” are exempt from the ban. Still in Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. No change in bill status as of this date.

HB4919- Give “motorcycle processions” same right of way as funerals. Introduced by Rep. Tom Barrett (R) on 9-12-2017. Gives “motorcycles processions” the same right of way as funeral processions, which means that other drivers must allow the entire procession to pass before entering or crossing traffic. The bill does not define “motorcycles processions”. Sent to House of Transportation & Infrastructure Committee on 9-20-2017.

HB4997- Eliminate ORV helmet mandate
Introduced by Rep. Jeff Noble (R) on 9-20-2017. To eliminate a helmet mandate on adults operating an off-road vehicle. Introduced and referred to Transportation & Infrastructure Committee on 9-20-2017. No change in bill status of this date.

SB552- Increase annual ORV tax
Introduced by Sen. Geoff Hanson (R) on 9-13-2017. Increases the annual off-road vehicle license tax from \$16.25 to \$26.25 for a license that does not authorize operation on state ORV trails, and \$36.25 for one that does. If no action is taken the tax expires in 2019, and the bill would delay this until 2024. Passed into law and signed by the governor on 12-28-2017.

Status of other ABATE bills can be found at state website, under Legislative Reports, on the Legislative page.

NEW LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

HB5100- Exempt bike racks, tow balls, etc. from ban on obscuring license plates. Passed 104 to 2 in the House on 1-25-2018 to establish in the definition of “foreign materials that obscure or partially obscure” vehicle license plates, which is a civil offense. Sent to the Senate, and Senate referred to the Committee on Transportation on 1-30-18.

SB787- Allows individuals over the age of 65 to select a level of Personal Injury Protection on their auto insurance policies. The choice is either a cap of \$50,000, or unlimited (as it is now). Not sure of the language on this bill, (from the way it read, the limits only apply to the named insured and his/her spouse), so Alice asked Dondi Vespisrini for his “legal” opinion on the bill. Dondi confirms the bill only allows for the limited coverage to apply only to the insured & spouse. So, motorcyclists would not be bound by the limit if a senior chooses it, and then has an accident with a motorcyclist. A point Dondi made, is that the bill, unlike the last one, does not have any provisions for reduced premiums if a senior chooses the \$50K limit.

HB5040- HB5046- House bills, passed by the House, sent over to the Senate Michigan Competitiveness Committee. This package of bills was voted out of the Senate Committee today and will be voted on by the full Senate shortly. These bills all deal with various aspects of the “driver responsibility fees” which are assessed on folks with DUI,s or other serious driving infractions, such as driving without proof of insurance, etc... These bills speed up the elimination of driver responsibility fees.

- Alice received two awards (one for Awareness from ABATE, one for Legislation from COC).
- 50/50 tickets for sale
- Awareness signs(Bruce);
The new signs will be 3X5 on vinyl, we will get 4 more roughly \$300 per sign with metal poles and wood base.
- Tiny has Bike Raffle tickets for sale
- Summer Tour Update (Paula);

Summer Tour Party is September 16th, at the Amvets in Mt. Clemens. The Fillin Station bought the center two color pages.

- Our Co-RC has stepped down Jan26th, the board asked Arnold to be our new Co RC, there was no other interest. Arnold did accept a motion was to accept, All in favor.
- Bowling Update (Tiny);
The new date is **April 8th**, and we need people to reserve lanes by **April 4th**. There is a new flyer with the updates on the website and Facebook already. The reason why we had to postpone this event is we only had 28 bowlers and we were going to lose money.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.