

Hello to all Freedom Fighters!

Well the elections are over and just as many folks are disappointed as there are happy ones. The trick now is to come together as friends and fellow riders with a common goal. We have a varied mix of the political spectrum in our Region that ranges from Far Left to the Far Right. Many are in the middle and some just don't care and are here to party. I doubt any of my members are going to change idealistically unless there's some major event or legislation passed that impacts them personally. Everybody thinks that they're right and the other side is just plain wrong. So how do we bridge our differences and still remain friends? I'm not sure. I can't honestly say that I live by the Golden Rule..... maybe a modified version of it, but I do know that the founders always included a belief in God into the mix when laying our groundwork. You may have the right to do something but does that mean you should? Your actions impact others about you. Maybe we should stop and think if the reactions are going to positive or negative before we act. Maybe thinking about the other guy for once will make a favorable reaction in these divided times.

Our November meeting was called to Order by Treasurer/Secretary Mimi. The RC was out of town. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Minutes were read and approved. We welcomed a new member, Steve Miller, from the Iron Mountain area. Welcome!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Elections are over. We have friends in the House and Senate that may be instrumental in helping us deter any helmet law reimposition. We're not sure where the insurance reform bills are going yet with the new Governor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A). Our totals for cash and toys raised and collected were given from the Marines.
- B). Our MRF info needs to be updated and corrected and a vote was taken to remain sustaining members of the MRF
- C). Member of the Year voting took place. Congratulations go out to Chuck Way!!

NEW BUSINESS

- A). A Christmas get together at the Ford River Pub was suggested and discussed but a date is still to be decided.
- B). Our new mission statement regarding stiffer penalties for those that injure or kill bikers was announced and discussed.
- C). The Seminar was discussed and the membership was encouraged to make their room reservations.
- D). Pub Crawl was discussed but no date decided upon as of yet.

Mike King made a generous donation to ABATE. Thanks Mike! We will use it wisely.

Charlie Lundmark's passing was sadly reported. For those of you who thought that he was just our senior barman at our Poker Run, he also made it possible for ABATE to hold our Bike Raffle. When Region 17 wanted to hold the original raffle, we were told by the State of Michigan that we were too political and would never get a license to hold it. We sought out charitable organizations to pull a license for us without any success. There was reluctance due to us being unknown to any of them and also being bikers. We were turned down by the Gladstone Lions Club which Charlie was a member of. We offered to pay a portion of the cash raised to any organization that would get us a license. Enter Charlie. He was very disappointed with his Club for not helping us and suggested that we try the Bark River Lions Club. They had a recent event that failed and were looking to raise some quick funding. He set up a meeting with them and I went to pitch them our offer. With Charlie's endorsement, they agreed and the rest, as they say, is history. After a few years there was a bidding war to provide us with a license and we kept getting cheaper and cheaper licenses, all due to Charlie Lundmark! Lions Clubs continued to get us licenses even after the state took over the bike raffle. We never knew why he befriended us but we're sure glad that he did. He took great pride in his volunteer work behind the bar and was constantly arranging and rearranging his area. He would call every January and ask for the dates so he could work us into his schedule. We even poured him a special cement pad at the old place so he has a better workplace. I will miss that twinkle in his eye and his ever present smile. Godspeed my friend! Thank you for all that you contributed to us in ABATE of Michigan.