

ABATE REGION 10 – Gratiot & Saginaw  
December 2, 2019  
MICHIGAN RIDER NEWSLETTER

- Meeting brought to order.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Discussed Road Captain position because Joe A. wasn't at the November meeting and he wanted to continue his position. By a show of hands, it was decided that Joe will continue to be Road Captain with Art S. being a Co-Captain with Joe. As well, by a show of hands, Amanda Gonzales, was voted to take over as Secretary. She will begin her journey in February. (Yipee!! Happy Dance!!).
- Bernie gave an update on the planning of the benefit for Dan B.. Bernie would like to plan this event for sometime in January or February. He would like to put a spin on this event and is hoping to put together something different rather than a benefit with an auction to raise money. Bubba G. made a motion for Region 10 to set aside funds for this event. Members seconded this motion with a show of hands. More information to come.
- Bernie also gave an update on the Bernie's Santa Ride Fundraiser. This years auction brought in more money than any years past. His elves will be going shopping and children all over Gratiot County will be very happy. Gift wrapping will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and Gifts will be distributed on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. An update of that outcome at the January meeting.
- Legislation Report: Gary handed out a copy of his letter he received from Representative Vanessa Guerra and thanked members who sent their own letters. Requested members that had not yet sent a letter to get with him. Our letters have caught the attention of legislators. In addition to Senator Lucido's bill, Representative Bolden has a bill to address the problem, HB 4812 which would modify the order of priority for claims by motorcyclists. Gary also gave thanks to Brandy P. for going with him to Lansing and for accepting the Communications Director position. Way to go, Brandy! Girl, nothing like grabbing the bull by the horns!
- MRF Report: NTSB finished its investigation of the autonomous vehicle that killed a pedestrian in Tempe, AZ in March of 2018. They revealed that among other things the software failed to properly identify the victim as a pedestrian, it did not adequately assess a safety risk and the operator of the vehicle was watching a tv show on her phone and not paying attention to the rode. A newly re-established group called the Motorcyclist Advisory Council (MAC), who is supposed to serve and advise the Federal Highway Administration on issues critical to motorcyclists across the nation. The "MAC" was first designed to allow motorcyclists the opportunity to discuss how they are affected by roadway design, barriers, construction and the emergence of intelligent transportation systems. However, according to Hardtail, President of the Board of Directors for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, "Despite our best efforts to ensure the motorcycle community had a seat at the table, the FHWA has dismissed our concerns and efforts instead emphasizing councilmembers with safety and engineering backgrounds without any experience actually riding a motorcycle. Including only one motorcyclist in this group is not only imbalanced, unfair and contrary to the mission of the MAC, but it defeats the entire purpose of the Council. The MAC was supposed to carry the voice of motorcyclists – having only one member as an actual motorcyclist will render this Council ineffective."
- Event Dates for 2020 need to get in the Rider.

- Again, members need to renew their memberships if expired or close to expiring. There are still a lot of motorcycle issues that need to be fought for.
- Proceeds from the 50/50 were won and donated back by non-member, Kyle. Someone sign that man up!
- Reminder: ABATE of Michigan's Seminar 2020, January 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, in Saginaw at the Four Points by Sheraton Saginaw, 4960 Towne Centre Road, Saginaw, MI 48604. Price is \$89 per night. Book online: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1559145888247&key=GRP&app=resvlink> or Call 888-236-2427 or 989-790-5050, ASK FOR ABATE GROUP BLOCK. Last I heard, there weren't any rooms left?
- RC-Tim motioned that we purchase Kleenex, Clorox Wipes, etc., or donate money to a local elementary school as our dedicated teachers buy these items with their own money. Members seconded by a show of hands. Deb T. volunteered to figure out the what, when and who and bring back to discuss at our January meeting. Our Member of the Year is still rockin it!
- Treasure Report was given.
- Discussed again, the Passport (stamp) Book. RC wants to know if we do or do not want to do this. Need more interest.
- Meeting adjourned. 6:20pm.
- NEXT MEETING: January 4, 2020.
- Stay warm and Happy Holidays! **Lois**