

Hello from the Center of God's Country!

After a long hiatus, we're back! Whatta Summer! Our Legislative Committee dang near set up residency in the capitol building trying to be heard on insurance reform, only to be ignored and victimized. Motorcyclists really got boned, followed closely by the bad advice still being given seniors pertaining to Medicare coverage. We're running out of time to fix the reform law and the legislators are moving like porcupines in January! I guess it's going to take some folks losing everything they have to pay for medical expenses before Lansing wants to revisit this issue. Protect yourself by being informed personally. Check your policy! NEVER just rely on what your agent tells you and figure you've got enough coverage. Many Michigan lives are going to be impacted for the worse. Try not to be among them. Research what Medicare and Medicaid will pay and what the requirements for each program are. Then call your legislator and ask, "WTF? What were you thinking???"

We set up a raffle ticket selling booth at our U.P. State Fair in Escanaba this August. I lost count of the folks stopping in and relating how they won't ride anymore due to distracted drivers and then they would mimic someone driving and texting. Lotsa folks are parking their scooters. Combine the lack of insurance with the distracted driving and I can't say that I blame them. C.Y.A! Once the accident occurs, it's too late!

I'll climb down off my soapbox and get back to business. We missed July's deadline due to the 4th and we don't hold a meeting in August so there you have it. We were busy though. The Stripper Pole Run, 26 bike nights were put on by us. Our big Poker Run event, the Pub Crawl, Bald Eagle's U.P. North Run, the Return to the Rusty Rail Run, the Remembered Riders Run, and the Fair's 6 days of 13 hours each. The members of 17 that worked these events can be very proud of themselves. I'm amazed at their spirit of volunteerism and am honored to be their RC. Thank you for your efforts for ABATE! We also have a Family Fun Day at the fairgrounds for the Toys for Tots program coming up. No ABATE money is used for this charity event - only time is being donated by ABATE members for the kids.

The meeting was called to Order and we opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Minutes were read and approved without change. The Treasurer's Report was given and accepted. A Legislative Update was presented and Danny Yensch's bill and insurance fixes were discussed. We're gathering co-sponsors for both efforts.

Awareness Report was given on how new classes were being scheduled in Dickinson Co. and our crackerjack team is waiting on them! Chuck was already in Wolverine for Region 4's 911 event, so we had no MRF Report.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A). Chuck's Remembered Riders Run results were announced. Great job, Chuck, Sally, and crew!
- B). Bike Night in Loretto results were given by Jean and Barbie. More great results from them and Double Trouble!
- C). Bike Night In Ford River results given by Mimi. Even better than last year. Thanks Mimi and Bald Eagle Harley Davidson! (and Barbie for sitting in for us!)
- D). U.P. North Lodge report: highest total ever from them!
- E). A \$2,500.00 donation to the state at the Officers' meeting was announced

F). Fair Report was given by Mimi who thanked everyone who worked there and sold tickets!

G). The Doc's Run to Shawano was discussed and it was announced that the Road Captain is in charge of an event like this. His route is THE route for that particular run. If you need to leave early, then so be it, but the Road Captain/s are in charge from now on.

H). Toys for Tots event was reported on by Jean and Barbie with assistance from Audra and Joe. This took up the majority of our time in discussing preparations.

#### NEW BUSINESS

a). The State Treasurer would like to have the Regions send in their event proceeds as they are raised instead of waiting until the end of the year. This gives the state a constant cash flow and eliminates carry over every year. We discussed how this impacts our decision making in regards to our donation. Withholding some funds for future events is still allowed as long as the Operations Officer is informed of it, as before.

Special Thanks to Region 4 for their hospitality and efforts for hosting the 911 Remembrance Run. We had a great time and appreciate all of the work involved. P.S. I didn't win the bike either.

Be safe out there!!