

Greetings from the parched U.P.!

I want to start out by thanking all of the Region 17 members who contributed to and worked to make this Great U.P. Poker Run a smashing success this year! Also thank you to the 13 Regions that journeyed north to party with us! You guys really rocked! We went from not knowing if we'd be allowed to put the event on and the campground's opening being questionable to just gettin' it done in a matter of days. Everything was "last minute" due to the Governor's edicts. People seemed to understand that we were dealing with restrictions placed on us by the government and still managed to have a great time with a great turnout. Rufus completely revamped our beer cooler over a couple of sleepless nights into a thing of cool beauty. Others postponed medical procedures to be able to work for us. Danny and Jan, from 7, tended bar with Rufus and Cathy both nights and donated all of their tips while Double Trouble Twins Brenda and Julie sold more 50/50 tickets than ever before. Barbie's games kept folks giggling and Mimi's silent auction with Julie and helpers raised record breaking funds. Chuck and Sally were our "go to" couple for everything as was Chris who made beer runs and did everything else we asked of her. The front gate was Mimi's territory with a bunch of folks who sat with her when the rush came in. Merry and Cody chipped in with different tasks and Merry sold raffle tickets all weekend long. Chuck led the set up and cleanup crew and finally got to sleep on Sunday night. Thank you all for everything that you did and all of your support. You did a helluva job!!!

After the thank yous, I just want to say that I want my old America back. I want my grandkids taught American history and civics without Liberal bias. I want them taught to love our country and not rip it apart because of 150 to 250 year old transgressions. I want bad cops prosecuted equally as rioters, looters, and arsonists. I can't figure out how a bad cop in Minneapolis leads to urban rage and destruction in every big city across the country. Why slash police funding in New York or L.A. over what happened in Minnesota? Nationwide, 11 unarmed black people were killed by police last year. That's not even a close to the carnage in Chicago on any given weekend perpetrated by black on black crime but nobody is rioting saying that those lives matter every Monday. Babies and children are dying, shot just as dead as George Floyd but nobody knows their names. The Liberals remove God from our society and then bemoan godless behavior.

I'm not a deeply religious person but I do acknowledge a higher power and try to adhere to the Golden Rule as much as my temper allows me to. I just don't get this urban rage behavior and calls for removing police forces. My dad told me 60 years ago that when you get stopped by a cop, you 'yes sir' him and 'no sir' him even when you think he's as wrong as can be. The time to fight back is in court not on the curb. Katman reminded us of that during our civil disobedience period regarding helmets. Why can't the black community learn not to resist arrest and remove any reason cops to use force? If you're afraid of the police, try changing the behavior that brings you into contact with them.

I am sorry that this nation was formed by English colonists and that minorities had very input at the time. We pretty much had open borders back then too. The vision that these founders had was quite spectacular and it cost them everything. Google what happened to the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson lamented the squaring of "all men are created equal" with slavery back then. We eventually changed the laws and policies of the day. I hate being called a racist. Every time I disagree with

anybody over anything, that's the first thing that has to be dispelled. I don't believe in systemic racism. Blacks make up roughly 12% of our population but are involved in America's every day life at a much higher rate. Whites (and others) voted for Obama twice. The highest office in the land! Blacks are in every faction of our local, state, and federal government. Some are police chiefs setting police policies. NYPD has more minority than white officers. What is it that the protesters want? Defund the police and send in more social workers? Good luck with that. I would not want to be a snowflake social worker walking into a domestic disturbance call or a traffic stop. When the social workers are killed at an even higher rate than armed officers, what is the protesters' "Plan B"? Send in more cannon fodder? Overwhelm the perp with cookies and hot cocoa? Maybe have a portable campfire and offer to sing *kumbiya* while holding hands?

Maybe it's not all the urban ragers' fault. It's fashionable to hate America now. Millionaire celebrities in Hollywood, millionaire athletes, and millionaire recording artists spew their hate for the President and our government every day via social media, talk shows, and podcasts. Gone are the TV shows that us old timers grew up with that taught family values, to help your neighbor, to respect law and order, and that cops and firemen were your friends. Now we have 90 Minute Fiance, The Kardashians, Growing Up Hip Hop, and others that you can't even follow the dialogue of due to all the profanity and F bombs being constantly bleeped. Throw a hissy fit and scream obscenities - that's entertainment! Bad behavior is not only glorified, it's rewarded. There is no melting pot any more. We're all tribes now with our own areas and districts. Whites are shamed for having privilege and for being supremacists. Englishmen started this country. Slavery took place from the 1600s to the Civil War. Nothing can change that. I never owned any slaves and there are no living former slaves. Generations have passed since that awful era. Laws were changed and the nation learned from it. Now every age of athletes thinks it's fashionable to disrespect our flag and country by taking a knee and refusing to stand during our ('our', meaning every body of every color) national anthem. Maybe that is not their intention, but that's how I perceive it. This year the NFL is going to play the *Black* national anthem before the Star Spangled Banner before each game. So I won't be watching or contributing to any athletes' salaries this year, again. That is offensive to me and I feel it is offensive to my country!

We're never going to come together if we continue to point out our differences and elevate them above our similarities and common goals.

Our July meeting was called to Order and we opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to America and it's flag. Mimi delivered the Minutes and they were approved as read. The Treasurer's Report was also accepted as read. A Legislative Update was given pertaining to your newest insurance alert and Jim and Noel's meeting with the Speaker of the House concerning S.B.528. Please be aware: It is now after July 1 and every day that passes increases your odds of being wiped out financially by an "at fault driver" who can't afford adequate medical insurance. We have yet to see the savings, Beau.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A). Poker Run Report. The financial report was given and a critique and suggestion conversation took place. What to do with the cans was also discussed.

B). Return to Rusty Rail Run was addressed by Chuck and discussion followed. July 25.

C). Remembered Riders Run. A report by Chuck was also given and posters were discussed. September 6

D). Field Meet. Advisory was given and discussion followed

#### NEW BUSINESS

a). A Tuesday run to the UP North Lodge was discussed and details finalized

b). Our Fair has been canceled by Gov. Whitmer resulting in a \$8K loss to our Region. Replacement events were discussed such as extending Bike Nights into September and setting up a booth at Elmer's. Her latest mask mandate will probably all but wipe out any of our planned events.

c). The Insurance protest in Lansing on September 29 was discussed.

d). Request to purchase additional yard signs was brought to the floor and voted on.

e). Cash disbursement was discussed and voted on. Check will be sent to State Treasurer Kopta

We adjourned to dinner at the Oaks