



With the help of previous members and an injection of new blood, Region 8 is coming back to life. Our first meeting was held on March 10 and we filled the room! Okay, the room wasn't that big and we were at individual small tables spaced 6' apart. But for a first meeting, we were happy with the participation.

The meeting was called to order at 4pm by Robert Meloche. After introductions of the few officers we do have, Robert gave an overview of the goals of ABATE, standard meeting protocol, called for volunteers for the open officer positions, and gave an overview from the March legislative meeting. Then we spent some time on the fun stuff - discussion around how to increase membership, potential rides and events, training and opportunities for interacting with the community. It was a great discussion, and while we don't have concrete plans yet, the ideas were flowing. We agreed to continue with meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Centershot in Dorr, and the meeting adjourned at 5:10. We left feeling really positive!

For Region 8, 2021 will be a year of learning from those around us. Our goal is to have at least 3 daytrips on the bikes (locations to be determined), and we will be supporting the events of other regions to learn the ropes. If you have an event and could use some manpower as well as some attendees, please reach out to us through our website at <https://region8.us> or directly to Robert at rjm@region8.us or Becky at rebeccajoyd@yahoo.com. Speaking of the website, we chose not to go with a Facebook page because of the blatant censorship and pro-big-government propaganda.

We intend to have a booth at the Lakeshore Blessing of the Bikes (anticipated in May but COVID-dependent). If you attend that event, please make sure you stop by to introduce yourself.

Lastly, we'd like to extend a HUGE thank you to the officers of Region 5 for allowing us to attend their February meeting and making themselves available for answering questions, and to the members of Region 21 who have invited us to do the same in the near future.

Looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible!

-Becky

Region 8 Secretary