

Hello from Snow City!

I hope it ends soon. Mimi wants to get out on that new trike and I'm tired of shoveling the roof off! I'm thinking maybe Puxatauny Phil raided somebody's medical herbs.

Hey, I've got to ask you, are as pissed as I am about this insurance "reform" that is nothing but a cost shift from the auto insurers to the healthcare providers? Why is it that every time there is a change in the insurance laws, only Michigan motorcyclists have to buy something they can't collect on? Prior to S.B.1, we were forced to buy into the MCCA fund at the same rate as auto drivers. BUT....we could only collect on it if we were involved in an accident with another motor vehicle. So, we paid full price but were unfairly limited in our ability to claim any benefits. I will bet you that most of the legislators in Lansing are still unaware of that fact. Beau says that we got cut a "sweetheart deal."

So here comes S.B.1. Once again Mr./Mrs./Ms. Michigan Motorcyclist, you have to purchase insurance that you may not be able to benefit from. This time, just the opposite conditions are required by law. No matter how much medical insurance coverage you purchase for yourself and passenger, including unlimited, you can only claim a total medical benefit in the amount purchased by the at fault driver for themselves. Another WTF? moment. Before S.B.1, if you high sided a curve, hit a deer, hit a pothole, hit another bike, lost control, - any accident that didn't involve a motor vehicle - you could not claim catastrophic benefits even though you paid full price for them. So before the "reform", no car, no catastrophic. After "reform", no car, get what you paid for. With car, get what the car driver bought for themselves and no access to whatever you purchased to protect yourself and passenger.

The legislators in Lansing will actually argue with our Legislative Committee and tell them that they are wrong. They say those conditions are not in the "reform bill". They don't know because the insurance lobbyists wrote their wish list called S.B.1 and spoon fed it to our friends in the legislature, who quite frankly, have no idea about the financial chaos they unleashed on the citizens of this state. There are 60, yes 60, bills languishing now waiting to create a patch work of repairs to fix just a portion of the problems created by this monstrosity, Although motorcyclists are unfairly discriminated against by the "reform", all drivers are losing lifesaving benefits to receive pennies in savings. Just Google "Michigan No-Fault Reform". Check out Mitch Ablom's columns. The Republicans are going to own this mess, bigly. Contact Rep. LaFave and tell him how happy you are with this program. He actually thinks that healthcare providers are going to accept all of these new accident claims and not raise their premiums! Medicare and Medicaid are going to accept Michigan's millions of dollars in auto claims with no increases according to him. He says that this is what they have in Wisconsin and that it works great! I don't live in Wisconsin, If you are on Medicare, you had better visit their office, or have an attorney go over your available benefits before your new policies go into effect after July1. I have not been able to find any attorney, anywhere, agreeing with Beau that seniors need not purchase ANY Personal Injury Protection coverage because Medicare will cover their accident's medical expenses.

Personally, I'm having my chaps modified. I want a big flap sewn into the back of them to protect me from Lansing and the insurance companies. More next month about the new helmet law headed our way.

We called the meeting to Order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Minutes were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was explained and accepted.

Chuck gave us an MRF Report and our Sustaining Member status was explained and discussed. Chris reported on the recent class that she and Patty instructed and her plans to increase our Region's participation. I want to thank both Patty and Chris for implementing this program and saving lives.

A Legislative Update was given that dealt mostly with our efforts to be heard in Lansing regarding the problems and the shortcomings of S.B.1. Meetings were scheduled for the first week of the month with the Speaker and various Committees for all 3 days that the legislators were there. Some aids down there want to barter re-imposing the helmet law for equitable protection from S.B.1! Get ready! Was this their grand plan all along?? They want us to wear helmets and become motor vehicles to be treated fairly by the new "reform" bill. So, give up your right to choose and pay \$3 -\$5,000.00 per year per bike. Great reform bill, Beau! This is you being "behind us 100%?"

#### Unfinished Business

- A.) Our MRF status was explained again and our eighteen-year patch was displayed on our flag.
- B.) Seminar update. We recapped our acknowledged accomplishments for the year. We're top donor, top ticket seller, and winning ticket seller! Chris and Patty came 10th in Awareness instructions for their first year! Thank You!! Our auction items really did well. The down staters seem to have acquired quite a taste for Snake Nuts and Apple Pie. We all had a good time and especially liked Dondi's breakout session. Congratulations to Barbie Clairmont, Region 17's Member of the Year! Thanks go to Pam and her Events Committee!
- C.) Stripper Pole Run. Report on posters, tickets, give away items was given. It's coming up fast! Get with the program.
- D.) Region 4's Chili Cook Off was reported on. Who is going and when are you leaving kinda thing?
- E.) Pub Crawl. Barbie updated us on the latest with the Crawl. Game masters were re-announced. Things are coming together for March 7.

#### New Business

- a.) The RC extended an invitation to Region 10 to attend our Great U.P. Poker Run on June 26 & 27. The Michigan Rider announced 10 going to Michihistrigan so we invited them to travel a bit further and party with us. Their RC, Tim, seemed onboard and will discuss with his members.
- b.) Event Tee shirts were discussed and voted on for this year's poker run. They will be in a limited supply. Place your order.
- c.) Getting all of event dates to Silla was discussed and Barbie was already on top of it.
- d.) We are in need of a food vendor for the Poker Run. Suggestions were asked for. Ben may have a lead for us.  
Mimi will also contact the Fairgrounds for some suggestions.
- e.) Our PAC donation was clarified. There was a perceived discrepancy that was explained by Chuck and Barbie. All is well.
- f.) Todd and Katie showed us another money-making event that sounds really fun. They're putting one on in Marinette/Menominee area and invited us to attend and learn. Could be another road trip!

Chuck motioned to adjourn. He was hungry.

Like Iceman says, "Get involved. Take a stand. Make a difference!" If you're still kinda watching what's going on with ABATE but not really active anymore, now is the time for you to get back in the groove. Big changes are coming to motorcycling in Michigan and not for the better. We need numbers and we need you! Otherwise get your helmet out of mothballs.

Be safe out there,  
Gerry