

Winter is coming.

This has to be one of the worst riding seasons that I can remember. The first week of November and Marquette has had over a foot of snow and we've all had single digit temps. Yikes! Let's hope that this year's weather will keep the motorcycle fatalities down. That would be no small feat considering all the phone using drivers everywhere. People told us that they were actually afraid to ride their motorcycles this year due to this deadly habit of others. How did drivers ever survive before cell phones?

Our Legislative Committee has been spending at least one day a week on your behalf in Lansing trying to save you from financial ruin in the event that you get involved in an accident with a motor vehicle. Under S.B. 1, you are only eligible for what medical coverage the "at fault" driver has purchased for themselves. You can't use the coverage that you purchased for yourself and your passenger. Your coverage is only in case you lose control of your bike or hit a deer, etc. just the opposite of having had to pay for catastrophic care and then not being able to use it unless you're involved with a motor vehicle. This insurance reform is really great! The legislators know they have a problem with S.B.1. Dondi drafted S.B.528 to address and fix the potentially catastrophic consequences to motorcyclists but Senator Lana Theis won't bring it up for a committee vote because insurance reform is now in the past and the budget is all important now. Remember that when you're lying on the pavement this summer. "It's the budget, Stupid!" This is bigger than our helmet law modification and you had better write Senator McBroom and Senator Lana Theis to help fix this. Get involved! Under S.B. 1 you can lose everything if you're in an accident with a car or truck, etc. Rep. Beau LaFave (R) tells us that this is the greatest thing and this is what Wisconsin has and it's just great! WRONG! Of course he also tells senior citizens that they don't need to purchase any medical coverage. Just send your bills to Medicare. DO NOT DO THIS!!!! There is a very good chance that you will have to reimburse Medicare for anything they pay out. Talk to your own attorney about this situation. Make sure that you have the correct insurance on your bike before you leave the garage. Checking after the accident, you won't have a garage....

We opened our November meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Minutes and Treasurer's Report were accepted without change. There was no MRF or Awareness Report. Our Legislative Update pretty much consisted of the negative impact that S.B.1 has on all motorcyclists and our efforts to get action on S.B.528 to fix it. We are also introducing companion legislation in the House for a two pronged attack. Time is of the essence because the new insurance rates and policies will start being released in April and go into effect July 1, 2020.

Unfinished business

A.) We collected PAC donations.

B.) Barbie and Jean reported on our Toys for Tots Family Fun Day at the fairgrounds. Their efforts really paid off and this was our greatest year ever. Art Menard and the Marine Corps League couldn't thank us enough. Toys and cash donations were through the roof! We're going to help a lot of kids be merry and bright! Thank you to everybody who helped make this event the success that it was!

C.) Seminar reminder about rooms was given.

D.) We found a Friday band for the Poker Run. *Grand Design* has agreed to play for our guests' pleasure.

New Business

A.) Member of the Year. Ballots were passed out ahead of our meeting and after an explanation of just what constitutes a MOTY, Barbie Clairmont was elected Region 17's Member of the Year in recognition of all that she does for us! Congratulations Barbie and THANK YOU for all that you do!

B.) Our Christmas get-together will be Saturday, December 14, at the Ford River Pub. Drinks at 6:30 and dinner at 7:00. We hope to see you there!

I hope that you all have a safe and successful deer season and a special Thanksgiving with family and friends. We've got so much to be thankful for living in the USA!