

Greetings Ladies and Gents!

So, I'm sound asleep the other night when my phone rang after 11. This call interrupted my dreams reliving all my past dates with Pamela Anderson, so I was a little annoyed to be jolted back awake to my phone's moment spoiling alarm, but I did. It was Kip, ABATE's Self Appointed Media Monitor. He opened with praises about ABATE and how much he loved the organization. He went on and on until I was wondering why he called so late to gush about his feelings for an organization when he dropped the big one on me. My rhetoric was going to get us in trouble, and we were going to lose "our tax-free status" due to some self-perceived governmental retribution for posting what I do. Still groggy and wanting to get back to Pam, I tried to explain to him what our tax status was, but he wasn't having any of it because, "we're a motorcycle rights organization and shouldn't be posting any political stuff like that." Still wanting to return to snuggling with Ms. Barb Wire, I didn't open my file of snappy comebacks and just informed Mr. Smith that I would take his comments under advisement and ended the conversation.

In Kip's world, a political lobbying group is not allowed to post differing political views in our newsletter. It's not like the Michigan Rider is Face Book, Twitter, or YouTube fer chrisakes. We get a voice! Federal policies really do affect every citizen (and undocumented migrant), INCLUDING motorcyclists. Maybe Kip doesn't get the correlation. Does he think that closing down the XL Pipeline isn't going to affect him because he's a member of a SMRO? That his premium gas prices aren't going to skyrocket when the oil industry starts to shut down? Does he think that raising ethanol level levels so high that it hastens my bike's "end of life service" doesn't affect any other motorcyclists? Or is he just like the other aforementioned media groups who just want to silence any opposition? Any business has the right to set its own rules and kick anybody out that they see fit! Right Kip? Well, that is, unless you own a bakery and don't want to make a wedding cake for two gays or lesbians! Hold it, hold it!! - in that case you MUST cater to them and provide uber service with a smile. So, our Constitution only applies to the companies that somebody in government agrees with? What a concept! That idea must have piggybacked over on a recently arriving Corona virus.

My friends, I have always tried to show how what I post relates to motorcycling and bikers. So, to Kip, I say, follow the great motorcycle song writer, Bob Seger's advice and just "Turn the Page."

Wow! We had a great turnout for our February meeting! Must have been the advertising of Dr. Gerr's Famous Sloppy Joes served after the meeting. We opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and moved to the reading of the Minutes of the last meeting. They were accepted as read. The Treasurer's Report was given, and it too was accepted without change. Chuck gave an MRF Report which was followed by our world-famous Legislative Update. Lansing is shut down and SMARTER is actively seeking sponsors to reenact Michigan's mandatory helmet law. Did you catch that? SMARTER IS SEEKING SPONSORS TO SUBMIT A BILL TO RE-ENACT THE HELMET LAW! If that doesn't get you off the front porch and to a meeting, I don't know what will.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A.) Our yard sign order has been placed with Eric and we will pick them up at the Pizza & Pop.
- B.) Seminar has been pushed back to be held in tandem with the Field meet.
- C.) At a recent Officers' Meeting, Gary Kopta announced that Region 17 was the highest contributor again this year. Great job to all that contributed!! You make the Region what it is! Thank you for all of your donations of time, money, and energy. Chuck says, "17 Rocks!"

- D.) Pub Crawl. Barbie reported on her Pub Crawl efforts and arrangements. Volunteers stepped forward to fill gaming positions.
- E.) Poker Run Update. Licenses and time fillers were reported on.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Newest group to want money off of ABATE labor was discussed.
- B.) Pizza & Pop scheduled for Wednesday, April 28. If you're interested in attending, contact Gerry or Mimi.
- C.) Freedom Rally is Wednesday, June 2. Jim says we need participation if you want to be heard.
- D.) Field Meet/Seminar June 11, 12, 13, in Wolverine
- E.) Region 4's Chili Cook Off Saturday, April 10, Gaylord
- F.) MRF scheduling problems with our donations is still ongoing.
- G.) Doc wants to go fishin' at the Ford River Pub on February 21 or 28. Whatdaya think?