

Fellow ABATE Members,

Don't let this late storm dampen your spirits. Spring is actually going to arrive....someday. Mimi and I went to Saginaw to attend a Board meeting and it was 70 degrees and sunny. It was like being in another world. Now I know how a lot of our elected officials feel; that they ARE in another world -Lansing! That's the only explanation that I can come up with to justify the Insurance Reform Committee's trial balloon bills that they are floating to see what they can get away with. The latest attempt was written so poorly that it actually would not allow you to use your own policy's benefits after you've exhausted the at fault guy's medical cap of \$250K. Yet these people are going to alter the auto insurance dilemma in Michigan!

We all want lower insurance costs and lower premiums. Where can the cuts be made to achieve that? The doctors/health care providers took a cut by accepting Medicare/Medicaid/Workers' Comp rates. The body shops and collision centers are using imported replacement parts, (which are cheaper and add to your insurance company's savings - not yours) the people of Michigan are paying exorbitant rates already (albeit for the best coverage in the nation). Who does that leave? The insurance companies! Beau just has to get them to lower their rates instead of lowering our benefits. Everybody else in the equation has taken a cut EXCEPT the folks who need to the most! The folks who are crafting these trial balloon bills and donating mightily to Beau's reelection campaign! Beau actually came out against opening the MCCA's books saying that there has been no magic money tree there before. Governor Whittmer has called for an audit of the agency and more transparency. The last time Governor Engler did that, we got a \$150.00 rebate for every vehicle that was insured at the time. The Legislators quickly passed legislation that sealed the MCCA books from not only the citizens of Michigan but the legislators themselves! Now why would they do that?

You have got to contact Beau LaFave and tell him to start looking out for US rather than the insurance industry's ass ets!

We had a pretty good turn out for the April meeting. We welcomed new member Todd Zirbel, who recently took over U.P. Cruising and had a reunion with Doc and Rufus and Cathy. It was "old home week". It was good that to see everyone again and to see them on the mend. We Opened with a Call to Order and the Pledge of Allegiance. Both the Minutes and the Treasurer's Report were accepted as read. Chuck gave a MRF Report and urged us all to contact the MRF website and participate in a "Call to Action". Profiling has hit Michigan and ABATE of MI directly. A Legislative Update was given and our Legislative Committee's efforts were made known. The struggle to enlighten our legislators and bureaucrats is never-ending! Hold onto you wallet or purse!

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A.) Dondi will be here late Friday night to give his presentation on Saturday afternoon.
- B.) Our Stripper Pole Run was discussed again.
- C.) The Freedom Rally is June 5th.
- D,) Field Meet and early tickets were discussed.
- E.) We heard back from Rory about our meeting request.
- F.) Chris gave us an Awareness Report. Things are coming together.

G.) Our social ride committee hasn't met yet and we were missing two members at this meeting.

H.) Pub Crawl final report. Great job Barbie! Special thanks to all of our Game Masters and Jean. We were very successful this year!

#### NEW BUSINESS

A.) Look Twice coasters were discussed and a vote taken to go in a different different direction. A new product will be looked into and an authorization to purchase was voted on.

B.) Suggestions or questions were fielded from the members to take before the upcoming Board meeting.

C.) A Committee of one was formed to look into our new Awareness give away item for the Stripper Pole Run.

We adjourned and went to the Oaks for dinner and fellowship.

I want to thank all of the Regions that participated in our Pub Crawl. We were really glad to see you and receive your support! We always want to show you a good time up here and hope that you can make it back again next year for the Crawl! THANK YOU!