

A.B.A.T.E of LOUISIANA, INC.
January 14, 2006
State Board Minutes
Harley Davidson of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA

I. Meeting Called To Order

- A) 12:01 P.M. by President James "Poet" Sisco
- B) Prayer led by Wilson Chaney, CMA
- C) Pledge of Allegiance led by Poet Sisco
- D) Recognize Sergeant-at-Arms, Pat Nerney
- E) Chapters identified and their two voting delegates for this meeting
 - 1) Capitol Area Laddie Elkins, Barb Sikes
 - 2) GNO/River Parishes Grant "Francis" Miller, Kevin Zanca
 - 3) Big Five Jimmy McDonald
 - 4) Northlake Jack Mills, Mike Fornea
 - 5) Lake Charles Not present
 - 6) Northeast LA Cecil "Cut-Thru" Crawford, Lucas Lisotta
- F) Additions to the Agenda - None
- G) Presidents Opening Statement – James "Poet" Sisco
Welcome everyone here today and glad to know we are getting past Katrina and Rita. This is a new year and we are going to make this a better year. We will need every Chapter and every member to participate to make this a good year.
- H) Vice Presidents Opening Statement – Sharon "Kinky Kathy" Gonzales
Glad to see everyone here today and hope everyone has your house and stuff back in order since the hurricanes. Lots of changes and everyone is affected by the hurricanes, including the State which is broke. This year ABATE will lead the wave of change for the motorcyclist of Louisiana. We hope to change the way money from endorsements fees are handled and add these to the rider education program. We need every motorcyclist to be on game plan and persuade the legislature that we need motorcycle training, safety, and awareness in this state. Thank you for voting me to this position and I hope I can, in turn, help each and every motorcyclist in this state.

II. Reports

- A) Reading of the minutes - Lynda Williams, Secretary
 - 1) Minutes of the November 12, 2005 meeting were distributed to board members via email and printed copies are available. Motion to pass the reading and accept the minutes: Jack Mills motioned; Francis Miller seconded; Vote unanimous.
- B) Financial Report – Barb Sikes, Treasurer
 - 1) Accounts for November through December reported. Motion to accept the report: Cut-Thru Crawford motioned; Jack Mills seconded; Vote unanimous.
- C) State Store Report – Carol McCarthy, State Products Manager
 - 1) November through December Reported. Motion to accept the report: Jack Miles motioned; Cut-Thru Crawford seconded; Vote unanimous.
 - 2) State store will be at upcoming events including the 2nd Annual Run for Your Rights Event on May 13. It was discussed that the store will not set up at the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival as they charge \$400 for a space. Plans are to participate in the Strawberry Jam held two weeks prior to the festival.
- D) Membership Report - Barb Sikes, Membership Coordinator
 - 1) October through December: 43 new members; 7 renewals including 3 life members; total membership 451.
 - 2) We need more ABATE bumper stickers for the membership package and will look into ordering at least 500 for a better price break. Discussion of procuring smaller stickers for helmets. Barb Sikes will look into stickers from the current bumper sticker provider since they already have the logo setup.
- E) Newsletter Report - Poet Sisco/Carol McCarthy, Newsletter Editor
 - 1) Cheryl "Shy" Rico has resigned as the Newsletter Editor. Carol McCarthy has expressed interest in that position and will take possession of the newsletter computer. Hank "Gator" Temento is the co-Editor. Deadline for the newsletter articles is February 15 for the next issue.
- F) Web Master Report - Walter Soto, Webmaster, not present; reported by Poet Sisco

- 1) Please see Pat Nerney so your picture can be taken for the website.
- G) Legislative Report, Max Green, Legislative Director, not present; reported by Poet Sisco
 - 1) State Representative Mert Smiley has agreed to sponsor two bills: 1) The "Justice for All" bill patterned after the AMA program and 2) A bill to take the rider education course and all money associated with it from motorcycle endorsements and move it from BESE to the DOT and request a 50 cent increase on all license plate fees statewide. Smiley stated concern with the fee added to license plates. We may have to compromise and drop the fee in order to get the bill passed.
 - 2) Kinky Kathy discussed the open letter to motorcyclists written by Col. James Champagne. We need to read and distribute this letter to the motorcycling community. (See Item V, F for additional details)
- H) Chapter Reports
 - 1) Capitol Area, Laddie Elkins: 33 members. The chapter meeting has poor attendance in recent years. Multiple mailings to the membership asking for meeting attendance, feedback on what the chapter can do to increase involvement, participation in election of officers, etc, were not productive. Attendance has not increased but decreased. The Chapter has tried working bike nights, changing meeting times and days, and other suggestions with no change in the interest of the local motorcycling community. The chapter will close if attendance shows no improvement at the next meeting of January 15th. If this occurs, the checking account to be closed and the balance and inventory will be turned in to the state. Membership will be sent a letter offering them a choice of joining another chapter or become a member-at-large by default. Member-at-large has no vote and can not hold an office.
 - 2) GNO/River Parishes, Francis Miller: 148 members. GNO and RP Chapters decided to combine in November and elected officers. GNO checking account to be closed and balance sent to the State Treasurer. GNO tent was destroyed in the Katrina event.
 - 3) Big 5, Jimmy McDonald: 24 members. Four new membership applications picked up this past week. Low turn out at last few meetings but this was expected because of the holiday season. Should the Capitol Area Chapter disband, their tent could be used by Big 5 instead of ordering a new tent.
 - 4) Northlake, Mike Fornea: 113 members. They are currently working on the Bogalusa Mardi Gras Motorcycle Parade scheduled for March 25 and the 2nd Annual Run for Your Rights Rally on May 13. Event details will be posted on the ABATE website when available.
 - 5) Lake Charles, not present.
 - 6) Northeast LA, Cut-Thru Crawford: 71 members. Also have a problem with meeting attendance. Moving the meeting day and time did not improve participation.

III. Announcements

- A) Thunder Over Louisiana; date changed to March 26th.

V. Old Business

- A) LA Motorcyclists Safety and Awareness Committee (LMSAC) – Poet Sisco
 - 1) The next meeting is Thursday, January 17, in Baton Rouge at the Dept. of Highways and Transportation Building. Please contact Poet with a two day advance notice if anyone wants to attend. Col. Champagne has been injured and will not be attending, but the meeting will go on with Poet conducting. Sub-Committees A (motorcycle awareness) and Sub-committee B (road conditions) meet separately prior to the meeting.
 - 2) A question was raised on the possibility of losing federal funds since education and safety programs are cancelled. TEA-Lu funds are now being targeted for the motorcycle education classes, which foil future plans to use the money for safer roads and motorcycle awareness programs.
- B) Corporate Memberships – Kinky Kathy Gonzales
 - 1) Committee meeting has been delayed do to other pressing issues. A chat-room conference call will be scheduled. Discussion was tabled until the next board meeting.
- C) Katrina Relief Efforts – Barb Sikes
 - 1) Balance of donations as of December 30, 2005 reported. If anyone in the motorcycling community needs assistance please advise your chapter president. To date only four people have been assisted.
- D) Yearly Inventories
 - 1) Chapter Presidents were asked to email your chapter inventories to the State Store Manager or Poet Sisco if you have not already done so.
- E) Chapter Calendar of Events – Poet Sisco

- 1) Chapter Presidents were asked to complete and submit your events calendar to the State Secretary if you have not already done so.
- F) Freedom Fighter Award Petitions
- 1) Capitol Area Year Bar Laddie Elkins, Barb Sikes
 - 2) River Parishes Patch Grant "Francis" Miller and Walter Soto
Year Bar Bill Hansel, Pat Nerney, Charley Newport, Steve Schwarer, Tamra Schwarer, Jojo Sisco, Poet Sisco, Lynda Williams
 - 3) Big 5 Patch Jimmy McDonald (member points should be prorated @ 3 mos. and submitted at the next state board meeting for awards)
 - 3) GNO Year Bar Kinky Kathy Gonzales, Kevin Zanca
 - 4) Northlake Patch Trish Amburgey, Dawn Converse, Joseph Farace, Lynnette Fornea, David Houp, Taunya Houp, Gary Lewing, Vicki Lewing, Jim Mahugh, Damian McCarthy, Russ McLaughlin, Cindy Ponsaa, Don Ponsaa, Tim Ragusa, Shy Rico, Ricardo Rico, Ron Silva, Sandara Temento
Year Bar Mike Fornea, Carol McCarthy, Gregg Miller, Vicki Miller, Jack Mills, Fred "Wolf" Peterson, Gator Temento
 - 5) Lake Charles Patch Chapter representative not present to receive: Ray Carroll, James Mackey, Donna Mackey,
 - 6) Northeast LA Patch Cut-Thru Crawford, Mark Jolly, Lucas Lisotta
- G) Chapter Charters
- 1) Chapter Presidents were asked to complete and submit your Chapter Charters to the State Secretary if you have not already done so.
- H) ABATE Flag
- 1) Flag pricing was presented on 2' X 3' and 3' X 5' state flags, Spanish Yellow with the black ABATE logo. "Capture the Flag" event was discussed. Each chapter and the state board would have a flag. It is cost prohibitive to order these flags with printed individual chapter names. Ribbons, banners, or borders, sewn on chapter names, could be used for chapter designation. Cut-Thru Crawford motioned, "We purchase 12 each 3' X 5' flags, yellow with black logo"; seconded by Kevin Zanca. Discussion: No additional. Vote unanimous.
- I) Toy Run
- 1) The Toy Run was a great success. At least 400 people attended and State Rep. Mert Smiley enjoyed participating as Grand Marshall. Changes for next year might include some prior planning for the stage production and parking issues will be addressed. An appreciation Plaque will be ordered for the Jefferson Parish Sheriffs Office for assisting with the run. Kinky Kathy has always conducted all the planning and activities needed to put on this run. Please plan to assist her next year. A band could be included next year. Please consider nominations for Mr. and Mrs. Clause next September. We are looking to purchase long sleeve 25th anniversary T-Shirts commemorating the event for 2006.

V. New Business

- A) Poker Hand Prices – tabled to next state board meeting as petitioner is absent.
- B) Committee to Study Ways to Streamline Membership Process - tabled to next state board meeting as petitioner is absent.
- C) Petition for Motorcycle Awareness Month
 - 1) ABATE of Louisiana has submitted a petition to the state to proclaim May as Motorcycle Awareness Month as of January 4th. A kickoff rally will be discussed at the next LA State Safety and Awareness Committee meeting. Some clarity is needed on the meeting point for the ride to the capitol.
- D) Blessing of the Bikes
 - 1) Planned to be held at the Lakefront Shelter #1 at 2 PM. People are encouraged to bring picnic baskets and enjoy mingling with friends prior to the blessing. Kinky Kathy Gonzales will make the arrangements and will provide details. Pins are the same as last year and this year's rocker may depict "25th anniversary". Because of storm damage to the lakefront and associated facilities, portable sanitary restrooms may be needed. The Levee Board needs to be informed of all activities. The State Store was requested to set up at the event and any permits should be procured now. Emilie Carroll will contact the levee board to see what permits are required.
- E) Newsletter Editor
 - 1) Previously discussed in Chapter Reports, Item II, E.
- F) Letter from Colonel Champagne

- 1) The January Issue of Thunder Roads Magazine includes an "Open Letter to Motorcycle Operators in Louisiana" authored by Col. James Champagne, Executive Director of the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission. ABATE was provided a draft of the letter prior to publication and was consulted for ideas and opinions on how it would be accepted by the motorcycling community. Time constraints limited our response, but concerns were voiced about the motorcyclist being at fault in most accidents. The purpose of the letter is to establish meaningful dialog between motorcyclists and state government. Please read the article and express your comments.

VI. Other Business

- A) It was reported that recently the Attorney General for the State of Texas threatened the officers of the Blue Knights with incarceration if they conducted a poker run, considering it to be an illegal activity. Sputnik, leader of Texas Motorcyclists Rights Association (TMRA2), is working to fight this issue. We will check out what our restrictions are for poker runs in this state and follow this issue closely. Advertisements should not include the words "poker runs" or any form of reference to gambling.
- B) Our board meeting locations used to be held and hosted in chapter areas on a rotating basis. It was suggested we ask the chapters to "host" future state board meetings at our permanent location. This would include meeting room set up and clean up, providing coffee, and perhaps something to eat. Northlake Chapter offered to host the March meeting and GNO/RP the May meeting.
- C) A biker ministry is set up at the Victory Church on Airline Highway in Metairie. Led by Pastor Brent they are providing assistance to storm victims. Items such as leather jackets, clothes, construction materials, and food are available. They are even building bikes for people who lost one in the storms. They are at the church everyday from Noon to 3 PM. It was suggested that we might donate some of our Katrina Relief money to this effort. Poet Sisco stated he would be in contact with the group and offer assistance.
- D) Poet Sisco read aloud a thank you note from his family expressing appreciation for the thoughts and flowers received at his mother's funeral last year.
- E) Copies of the police report filed for the stolen utility trailer are available.

VII. Adjournment

- A) Next State Board Meeting: March 11, 2006; Noon, HD of Baton Rouge, LA
- B) Motion by Mike Fornea; Seconded by Cut-Thru Crawford; Time 2:10 P.M.

Executive Secretary: Lynda Williams

Executive President: James "Poet" Sisco