

**A.B.A.T.E of LOUISIANA, INC.**  
**January 13, 2007 State Board Minutes**  
**Harley Davidson of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA**

**I. Meeting Called To Order**

- A) 12:08 PM by President James "Poet" Sisco
- B) Prayer led by Dickie Buhler, CMA Representative
- C) Pledge of Allegiance led by Poet Sisco
- D) Recognize Sergeant-at-Arms, Pat Nerney
- E) Chapters and their two voting delegates identified for this meeting
  - 1) Big 5 Jimmy McDonald, Trey Leake
  - 2) GNO/River Parishes Grant "Francis" Miller, Leslie "Penny" Harris
  - 3) Northeast Cecil "Cut-Thru" Crawford, Brian Crawford
  - 4) Northlake Gregg Miller, Don Ponsaa
- F) Additions to the Agenda
  - 1) Item V, E: CPR Classes
  - 2) Item VI, C: Sergeant-at-Arms
- G) Presidents Opening Statement – Poet Sisco

Welcome to everyone. It looks like a nice meeting today with beautiful weather and the Saints ready to beat up Philadelphia: Who Dat? ABATE of Louisiana has now received their second national award for legislative endeavors: Letter from the Motorcycle Awareness Foundation (MRF) was read aloud, "The MRF State Awards Committee specifically recognizes our efforts to improve motorcycling safety through right-of-way legislation, HR 694." The award was presented at the MRF Meeting of the Minds, September 2006. These are the kinds of things we need to continue to do.
- H) Vice Presidents Opening Statement – Sharon "Kinky Kathy" Gonzales

I thank everyone that had even the smallest thing to do with our Magnolia School Toy run this year. It was a tremendous success and the clients were extremely happy and the motorcycle count was about 420. Recognition to the Jefferson Parish officers who helped us. Mrs. Clause was the sexiest one yet and we thank her and Mr. Clause for their wonderful part. The MAP programming is moving forward and it looks like we will get some funding this coming year.

**II. Reports**

- A) Reading of the minutes - Lynda Williams, Secretary
  - 1) Minutes of the November 11, 2006 meeting were distributed to board members via email and printed copies are available. Motion to pass the reading and accept the minutes: Gregg Miller motioned; Cut-Thru Crawford; Vote unanimous.
  - 2) Reminder to all Chapter Presidents to send their 2006 chapter meeting minutes to the Secretary.
- B) Financial Report – Barb Sikes, former Treasurer for Pat Malbrough, Treasurer
  - 1) Accounts for November and December read. Motion to accept the report: Gregg Miller motioned; Francis Miller seconded; Vote unanimous. Barb reminded Chapter Treasurers to send their original 2006 bank statements to Barb Sikes or Pat Malbrough. Recognition to Barb for her many years of service as Treasurer.
- C) State Store Report – Carol "Amazon" McCarthy, State Products Manager
  - 1) November through December reports read.
  - 2) Silver Creek will be the first function for the state store this year, April 21.
- D) Membership Report - Barb Sikes, Membership Coordinator
  - 1) November and December: 25 new members; 13 renewals including 5 lifers; total 433. A lot of renewal applications were turned in this morning that will increase this count.
  - 2) 58 renewal notices were sent November 1; only 11 were returned prior to this meeting. New members are enrolling but the trend is they do not renew.
  - 3) Gregg Miller stated he is also sending members written notices reiterating the ABATE mission. Barb Sikes stated she will break down renewals on a chapter basis and provide information on members who have not renewed in the past to respective Chapter Presidents.
- E) Bayou Bikin' News (BBN) Report – Hank "Gator" Temento and Amazon McCarthy, Co-Editors
  - 1) November through December reports read.
  - 2) The winners of "Do You Postulate?": September/October, No one guessed Poet Sisco; Cut-Thru Crawford for November/December for correct answer Gator Temento. We are receiving compliments from outside of our ABATE organization resulting in new members.
  - 3) Thanks for the new copy machine which make production much quicker with the USB download direct to the copy machine.
  - 4) BBN is available via email (high-speed internet required), the ABATE website, or USPS mail. Please advise how you would like your copy delivered.

- F) Webmaster Report – Webmaster position vacant, reported by Poet Sisco
  - 1) The website is getting over 18,000 hits each month and out of state people are looking at the site also. The future webmaster must have experience and we must have confidence in whoever takes the position since they would have possession of the state owned computer. Individual Chapter pages will be made available soon.
  - 2) The computer recently crashed and the website had to be rebuilt. Poet requested approval to purchase backup hardware for the data stored; selection of a hard drive will be presented to the chapter presidents for approval.
- G) Legislative Report - Ed Harris, Legislative Coordinator
  - 1) Legislature is not active at this time; on April 30<sup>th</sup> the legislature convenes. We are putting together a questionnaire to send to candidates seeking election in an effort to find out who is motorcycle friendly. Any ideas and questions are solicited from Chapter Presidents and members. The most important thing we can do is get new members because numbers count when it comes to legislators listening to us.
  - 2) Mert Smiley and Bobby Jindal are having a fund raiser. If Jindal is elected it will be in our best interest as he and Smiley support increased funding for the motorcycle operators course and for motorcycle awareness programs.
- H) Public Relations Report – Emilie Carroll, Public Relations Director
  - 1) Two articles were printed about the Toy Run in the Times Picayune (copies were passed around).
  - 2) Will start to plan advertising for the Run for your Rights event and will take over the advertising and placing events in Thunder Roads Magazine.
- I) Chapter Reports
  - 1) Big 5, Jimmy McDonald: 65 members. Members are renewing and meetings are well attended. Will conduct the Catfish Run again on April 14<sup>th</sup>; details to follow. All members who earned their Freedom Fighter Award are present at this meeting. Trey Leake spoke of his enjoyment as a member in the chapter.
  - 2) GNO/River Parishes, Francis Miller: 169 members, 69 lifers, 3 youth. The MAP program has proven successful and is branching out; we thank all members who have participated. We assisted at the Blue Knights Run and the Toy Run. Our after meeting chapter rides are scheduled and road captains lined up; two overnight rides are planned. Bike nights at the Pit Stop are running well. Meeting place has changed to Piccadilly Cafeteria on Veterans. We are looking forward to a great year. Jerry Forstater is doing well. The chapter sends a mailing to all chapter members with a newsletter update of upcoming happenings. This is a way to communicate with the members who do not have email.
  - 3) Northeast, Cecil Crawford: 46 members. The last five meetings have not had a quorum. There is a lot of interest in ABATE, but members are not willing to participate. Meeting dates and time changes have not solved the problem; will continue to plug away to increase attendance. Received a personal invitation from ABATE of North Louisiana to attend a “Meeting of the Clubs” January 28<sup>th</sup>, in Shreveport; not sure what is entailed and will attend and find out more details on who may attend. Plan to assist with Ride for Jerry’s Kids Run June 9-10. Two members are interested in participating in the MAP program; Poet to assist with information.
  - 4) Northlake, Gregg Miller: 115 members; 7 lifers. January 21 they will hold their 1<sup>st</sup> CPR class with 24 members; Dale Hicks is heading this effort. May 18-19 the Run for your Rights will be at the Talisheek Grocery owned by member Jason Walters. Will participate in Meet on the Creek at Silvercreek Campgrounds in April. Letters are sent to all members up for renewal about ABATE’s mission.

### III. Announcements

- Johnny Choppers Super Bowl/Mardi Gras Party, 2/04, Whiskey Bin, Hammond, 8 PM – 2 AM
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meet on the Creek, Silver Creek Campground, Mt. Herman, 4/20-22
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Harley for Horses, St. John Community Center, LaPlace, 4/22, 10 AM
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Run for Your Rights, Talisheek, 5/18-19

### IV. Old Business

- A) Capture the Flag – Poet Sisco
  - 1) Rules are changed due to varying size of chapters. Points earned will be on a percentile basis based on current membership at the time of the event. This will be included in the revised Policies and Procedures, and distributed to all officers and published on the website once approved.
- B) Corporate Memberships – Poet Sisco
  - 1) There are no liability issues for a sponsor who’s name is advertised on the ABATE trailer. The finalization of the corporate memberships we could offer will be forwarded to the Chapter Presidents for their decision.
- C) State Board Vacancies – Poet Sisco

- 1) Webmaster position vacant; please ask your membership for interest in this position.
- D) Harley for Horses – Lynda Williams
  - 1) Date of the event is Sunday, April 22. We have been in contact with Anita Hartzell, director of the GNO Therapeutic Riding Center who conducts this ride to benefit the center. The Silvercreek Rally is the same weekend but hopefully will not have many Sunday activities. The police escorted ride starts at St. John Community Center, LaPlace to Port Vincent for lunch and ends at the St. Rose Travel Center. Penny Harris, Mike McBeth and Jane Brendel are on the committee. Northlake Chapter has people willing to assist also. We will most likely be handling registration, serving lunch, and assisting at the end.
  - 2) We would like interested people to meet at the riding center with Anita to see what this is about and make additional plans. The history and purpose of the ride was discussed; we would like to invite the center to present their purpose.
- E) Fall Fling – Kinky Kathy Gonzales
  - 1) Chapter Presidents were asked to start planning a 2007 fall State Event “Harvest Bash” to be held around mid-late October. Kinky Kathy to chair and schedule the initial meeting via chat room by February 14.
- F) Magnolia School Toy Run – Kinky Kathy Gonzales
  - 1) We had wonderful participation with over 400 bikes and 600 people.
  - 2) The Magnolia School event coordinator expressed interest in offering motorcycle rides for the clients on school grounds calling the event “Christmas in July”. Discussion included injury liability when riding a client; riding clients in the Santa’s sleigh; confusing clients. Discussion tabled.
- G) Share the Road Program – Steve Schwarer, MAP Coordinator absent – reported by Poet Sisco
  - 1) We have trained over 560 students in driver’s education classed this far. Recognition was made to all participants. Last minute schedules were met and the classes were well received. We look forward to the power point program Gregg Miller is putting together.
- H) Chat Room Service – Poet Sisco
  - 1) The Chat Room program we voted to purchase only has one room. Programs with additional rooms are more expensive. It was determined privacy is the most important feature. Agreed to move forward with the previously approved program. If the ability to copy the chat “minutes” is not an option, Poet will distribute instructions on how to capture the minutes.
- I) Pop’s Park – Poet Sisco/ Francis Miller Chairman
  - 1) Pop’s Park is located on the Westbank off Hwy 90 and is officially named, by the state legislature, for Pops Stroman, founder of ABATE of Louisiana. Planned modifications to the park include a pavilion with a memorial wall. A DOTD representative, Mr. Stanley, was contacted in regard to placing a sign to designate the park. Francis Miller believes he has procured donations of materials needed to construct the pavilion and rotunda. DOTD approval and parish permits will be required.
- J) Membership Incentives – Chapter Presidents report
  - 1) Gregg Miller polled his members who indicated they do not want or need anything to entice them to keep their membership current.
  - 2) Other Presidents were asked to poll their members for input.

## V. New Business

- A) Blessing of the Bikes 2007 – Kinky Kathy Gonzales
  - 1) Easter Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>: Promotional flyers will be distributed once the location is selected.
  - 2) The New Orleans Lakefront pavilions and restrooms are destroyed. Space is available to meet but portable toilets would be required and not be safe from vandalism. The Fly is available however the location is uncomfortable. Lafreniere Park, Kenner Lakefront, Mandeville Trailhead, Bayou Segnette, and the Pit Stop were offered. The preference is to hold the event near water. Poet and Kathy to research.
  - 3) Kathy will get order blessing pins and rockers by the end of the month through the State Store. Rockers will be larger and include two fasteners.
- B) Membership Increase, Goals for 2007 – Cut-Thru Crawford and Gregg Miller
  - 1) Cecil motioned, “To offer half-price (\$15.00) memberships at all A.B.A.T.E. sponsored and A.B.A.T.E. managed events for the first year membership fees for new members”; seconded by Gregg Miller. Discussion: This was successful at the Iron Eagle Rally. The initial membership package costs ABATE around \$9.00; \$3.00 if we do not include the newsletter printing or mailing. Vote: For 4, Against 3, Abstain 2, Pres. Sisco voted as tie breaker; Motion passed.
  - 2) Gregg Miller motioned, “We set new memberships and only new memberships at \$15.00, with no joint membership discount.” Seconded: Cut-Thru Crawford. Discussion: Poet Sisco stepped down in order to participate in discussion. We may be hurting ourselves with little funds to keep our organization running and for future endeavors. Any renewals are regular price. Once a member joins they are not eligible for this reduced price in the future. Couple prices for new members are not applicable. This will be a way to get members to join. The average membership fees across

the county are \$25.00. Lowering the fee should increase membership numbers. Vote: For 6, Against 2, Motion passed. Tri-folds and website will be revised.

- 3) Gregg Miller discussed formation of a chapter inclusive committee to contact motorcycle dealerships and motorcycle shops to give a free one year membership to new members that purchase a new motorcycle from their shop or include our membership information in their paperwork package. Discussion tabled to next meeting.
- C) Membership Services Book – Gregg Miller
  - 1) Member Services: Opened dialogue about starting a membership book highlighting members and services they could offer to other members of ABATE and people outside of the organization. Tabled to the next meeting.
- D) Run for Your Rights Run – Gator Temento
  - 1) Gator offered that The Run for your Rights III Event be conducted as joint effort of Northlake and GNO/RP Chapters, rather than as a State Event hosted by all chapters as voted on 11/11/06. Discussion: As a State Event Kathy Gonzales would chair the event and her plate is full with other events. As a joint chapter event we can form the committee and get rolling on the run immediately. All agreed to make this change.
- E) CPR Classes – Gregg Miller
  - 1) The Northlake Chapter is conducting CPR classes for interested members and would like to offer this opportunity to the GNO/RP Chapter members who wish to attend.

## VI. Other Business

- A) Capture the Flag Award
  - 1) Winners for 2006 was a tie between GNO/RP and Northlake Chapters. The flags were presented and chapter streamers are on order. Congratulations to both chapters.
- B) Freedom Fighter Petitions: Patches were presented; year bars are on order
  - Big 5: Patch: Mike Boyd, Trey Leake, Guy Smith, Jimmy Ward, Terry Winborne
  - Northeast: None
  - Northlake: Patch: Belinda Conerly, Curtis Conerly, Cary Curtiss, Dale Hicks, Doug Masters, Bob Ward, Monica Ward.  
Yr Bar: Jim McHugh, Carol McCarthy, Damian McCarthy, Gregg Miller, Vicki Miller, Jack Mills, Don Ponsaa, Gator Temento, Sandra Temento
  - GNO/RP: Patch: Emilie Carroll, Debbie Feldman, Gary Feldman, Jonathan Freekes, Phyllis Freekes, Gary French, Ed Harris, Leslie Harris, Charlie LaPrime, E.T. Malbrough, Pat Malbrough, Mike McBeth, John Medert, Ralph Treuil  
Yr. Bar: Sharon Gonzales, Grant Miller, Pat Nerney, James Sisco, Lynda Williams
- C) Open Floor to any other discussions
  - 1) Dwight Pemberton spoke as a member and believes in the mission of our organization and suggested we publish a list of ABATE's accomplishments and iterate the value of membership. This would give proof to people of why they should join and rejoin. Discussion included the need for an historian; we need people to work on this. The Tri-Fold needs to be updated. Presidents were asked to address this with their membership and solicit ideas.
  - 2) Penny Harris asked we have an Education Committee or Education Report at each state and chapter meeting of recent happenings.
  - 3) Sergeant-at-Arms (SAA), current trustee Pat Nerney, suggested the state position rotate among the chapters and that each chapter SAA is introduced to Robert's Rules of Order. Options included the hosting chapter SAA is the SAA for the state meetings. Big 5 SAA will be asked to serve as the State SAA.
  - 4) Suggested at the Presidents opening statement that our awards and flags be displayed at this meeting place (the BR HD meeting room) as a permanent display. Poet Sisco agreed to discuss this with the dealership. It was noted the meetings are not always held in this location.
- D) Next meeting March 10, 2007, Noon; Big 5 Chapter to host in the Winnsboro area; details to be determined. (Must have 30 days notice prior to the meeting).
- E) Motion to adjourn by Gregg Miller, seconded by Penny Harris, time 2:45 PM.

Executive Secretary: Lynda Williams

Executive President: James "Poet" Sisco