

A.B.A.T.E of LOUISIANA, INC.
July 8, 2006
State Board Minutes
Harley Davidson of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA

I. Meeting Called To Order

- A) 12:01 PM by President James "Poet" Sisco
- B) Prayer led by Wilson Chaney, CMA
Wilson spoke of the large increase of motorcycle related injuries and hospitalizations and prayed for all riders to be safe.
- 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) Northeast Cecil "Cut-Thru" Crawford, Lucas Lisotta
 - 2) GNO/River Parishes Grant "Francis" Miller, Kevin Zanca
 - 3) Big Five Jimmy McDonald, Jimmy Ward
 - 4) Northlake Fred "Wolf" Peterson, Don Ponsaa
 - 5) Lake Charles Dissolved
- F) Additions to the Agenda
 - 1) Magnolia School Toy Run, Added to Section V, E.
 - 2) Membership Increase, Added to Section V, F.
- G) Presidents Opening Statement – Poet Sisco
Happy to see the nice crowd and welcome everyone here. I enjoy seeing people from all over the state get together and share our interest to help each other out. Thank you for being here.
- H) Vice Presidents Opening Statement – Sharon "Kinky Kathy" Gonzales
Glad to have such a beautiful day to ride to this meeting today. ABATE of Louisiana has fulfilled our mission this year due to the tireless work of Mr. James "Poet" Sisco and his vision of what we should do with motorcycle related legislation. I think of the rules and regulations that governments impose on the motorcyclist in other countries and what could eventually happen in the USA. I am glad our organization, along with other organizations, has been able to stop these kinds of legislation. I am proud to be part of a winning team and thank everyone for their tireless help in the past and ask that everyone continue to help in the future.

II. Reports

- A) Reading of the minutes - Lynda Williams, Secretary
 - 1) Minutes of the May 13, 2006 meeting were distributed to board members via email and printed copies are available. Motion to pass the reading and accept the minutes: Grant "Francis" Miller motioned; Fred "Wolf" Peterson seconded; Vote unanimous.
- B) Financial Report – Barb Sikes, Treasurer
 - 1) Accounts for May and June read. Motion to accept the report: Francis Miller motioned; Cut-Thru Crawford seconded; Vote unanimous.
- C) State Store Report – Carol "Amazon" McCarthy, State Products Manager
 - 1) May through June report read.
 - 2) New helmet stickers are in stock. State store will be in Enon for the Labor Day Biker Party. All chapters were offered a selection of products to sell to members or people at events.
- D) Membership Report - Barb Sikes, Membership Coordinator
 - 1) May and June: 42 new members; 20 renewals, 5 life members; total membership 456
- E) Newsletter Report – Amazon McCarthy, Co-Editor
 - 1) The Newsletter is posted on the website and all agreed the newsletter is much improved.
 - 2) Advertisements are needed to keep the newsletter alive. They are putting together introductory packets to assist with selling ads.
 - 3) Request Chapter Reports or stories from each chapter, submittals for the "Then and Now" feature, and a new feature that asks, "Who is this?" with a prize pulled at random from those who guessed correctly.
 - 4) Poet mentioned a Chapter Challenge to the chapter who sells the most ads for the newsletter as well as a contest for the individual who sells the most ads.
- F) Webmaster Report – Webmaster position vacant, reported by Poet Sisco
 - 1) The webmasters laptop computer is in service and has all the software needed to operate the website. Please advise if any problems are encountered or if something needs correction.
 - 2) The website has been redesigned. It is faster loading and easier to move around.

- 3) A form will be submitted to members to poll how members would like to receive the newsletter: mail, email, or website download.
- G) Legislative Report, Legislative Director Position vacant; reported by Poet Sisco
- 1) HB 694 is now enacted which provides penalties for vehicles who violate another's right of way. HB 985 is also enacted which disallows anyone under the age of 5 to ride on a motorcycle.
 - 2) Cut-Thru Crawford stated a recent issue of the AMA magazine featured an article on the passage of HB 694 complementing the efforts of ABATE of Louisiana in getting the legislation passed in record time and praised our President Poet Sisco for his efforts. Kevin Zanca suggested we ask AMA to provide a letter or link for our website with this complement and could be published in Thunder Roads Magazine. Poet will pursue this great idea.
 - 3) Our new State Legislative Coordinator is GNORP Chapter member Ed Harris. He was warmly welcomed and will be giving Chapters direction in the future.
- H) Chapter Reports
- 1) GNO/River Parishes, Francis Miller: 162 members. Still successfully working bike nights at the Pit Stop and are participating in many events.
 - 2) Big 5, Jimmy McDonald: 48 members. Picked up a few new members at the Catfish run and had a good turn out. Participated with the Northeast Chapter in "Run for the Wall" that came through Monroe. Next year ABATE will participate in this event in a larger way.
 - 3) Northlake, Wolf Peterson: 109 members. The 2nd Annual Run for Your Rights Rally was successful.
 - 4) Northeast, Cut-Thru Crawford: 57 plus members. Have been working hand-in-hand with Big 5 Chapter in events and we appreciate the support of a few members who attended from the Northlake Chapter. We appreciate their support. The Run for Jerry's Kids was very successful and had over 500 bikes in attendance. Managed to gain one new member at that event. There are far too many welfare riders in this state. The Run for the Wall event was also worked with the Big 5 and we will continue to expand on that event next year. Having trouble getting members to the meeting.

III. Announcements

- Steel Pony Express will not be held as Scooter Promotions is no longer in business.
 Swamp Pop Music Festival and Poker Run, Lamar Dixon Expo Center, Gonzales LA, July 14-15
 15th Annual Ride to Work Day, July 19
 Benefit Dance for Red Knight Jay Himbert, July 22, 8pm till midnight, K of C Hall, 566 Avenue D in Marrero, live music
 Southern Cross Conference, October 6-8, Old Sawmill Town, TX. ABATE is committed to attending this meeting. ABATE is a member along with other southern state rights orgs.
 Rollin for Hope sponsored by Southern Cruisers Riding Club, July 29, dice run registration starts at 8:00 am at Ascension Civic Center, 9608 Airline Highway, Sorrento
 Blue Knights Poker Run, October 8, St. Rose Truck Stop, last bike out 11 AM, ends at Southport Hall, our State Store will attend.

IV. Old Business

- A) LA Motorcyclists Safety and Awareness Committee (LMSAC) – Poet Sisco
- 1) Last meeting determined they will work on an "Awareness Trifold" which will be given out at Louisiana welcome centers and motor vehicle offices.
 - 2) Decided to support legislation, as ABATE has voted to pursue, to add 25 cents to all vehicle license plates which will fund the state Motorcycle Safety Training Program and also support moving control of the program from BESE to the Department of Motor Vehicles. This program will also have the support of Col. Champaign and the State.
 - 3) The Department of Transportation will not cease use of cable barriers on roadways. We are pressing them to change the posts to a safer C-type design and add more spacing between the posts.
 - 4) LMSAC website design was discussed.
 - 5) Every year a new billboard design is introduced. Kinky Kathy and Poet Sisco decided to issue a Chapter Challenge: The design submitted by a chapter that is chosen by the LMSAC committee for a new 2007 billboard will win an award and be recognized. Next year ABATE and MAC logos will not be designated on the billboards in the interest of fairness as there are too many groups participating without recognition.
 - 6) Public Service Announcements (PSA's) were discussed. People expressed they heard or viewed very few during the month of May designated as Motorcycle Awareness Month. Hog

Heaven television show has offered to run a PSA for ABATE, but to date we have not had resources to produce a PSA. The videos are available but time constraints and lack of a PR Representative have not made this possible.

- B) Corporate Memberships – Kinky Kathy Gonzales
 - 1) Tabled to next meeting.
- C) Katrina Relief Efforts – Reported by Poet Sisco
 - 1) No financial report read.
 - 2) We must disburse funds as soon as possible. Kevin Zanca suggested that people who have already been helped could be asked if additional help is needed. We could canvas people at motorcycle shops to see who might need assistance.
- D) State Board Vacancies
 - 1) Public Relations Director is needed to send out press releases and gain advertising. Chapter Presidents please ask your membership for interest in this position.
 - 2) Webmaster position needs someone who has been in the organization for some time and is knowledgeable on creating and maintaining a website. Chapter Presidents please ask your membership for interest in this position.
- E) Helmet Stickers – received and are 50 cents each from the state store or chapter product store.
- F) Harley for Horses – Lynda Williams
 - 1) Date has not been decided; Jane Brendel, Mike McCarthy and Penny Harris have offered to assist with the event date and planning.

V. New Business

- A) Fall Fling – Wolf Peterson
 - 1) Members of the Northlake Chapter are interested in having a family orientated get together over a weekend with a focus on getting to know each other better and get the chapter members together. Wolf will look into available campgrounds or private properties that might be available. In the past the State Board held retreat meetings but participation was lacking. Tickfaw State Park was suggested. Wolf was tasked with presenting plans for this event at the next state board meeting and if acceptable we will hold our November State Board meeting in this venue. It was agreed to follow Francis Miller's suggestion that we name this a "Capture the Flag Challenge". The chapter with the largest percentage of members participating would win.
- B) Robin's Ride – Emilie Carol
 - 1) Robin Mahaffey of Seattle is doing a solo cross-county ride in order to raise funds per mile for New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity's Women Build Program and Grounds for Health. Her goal is 20,000 miles and is sponsored by Harley Davidson of Seattle. She is looking for additional sponsors. Our Northeast Chapter assisted her in Monroe and on June 26th, members of the Northlake and GNORP Chapters met and escorted Robin from LaPlace to New Orleans, and showed her around New Orleans and the storm impacted areas during the time she was here. She received coverage from WWL-TV, Channel 4, who aired an interview with her where she mentioned help from ABATE. The Sheraton Four Points gave her room free of charge and her website has compliments to our members. She'll be back in New Orleans on August 29th where we plan to ride with her along the Mississippi coast to see the effects of the storm in that area. More details to follow on her returning trip which Channel 4 has agreed to cover.
- C) Helmet Protest – A. Leonard
 - 1) The helmet legislation is a discriminatory law. As years ago certain people could not use a particular bathroom or were designated to live by different rules, today motorcyclists are the only segment of society who must wear a helmet. No other person by law, such as fireman, must wear a helmet. Arte has worn a "top hat" for years prior to the helmet law, and is willing to do it again to fight the establishment and this law, but he needs assistance with legal representation and court fees. He had been stopped already for riding without a helmet and the law enforcement officer would not issue a ticket when he heard his plan to fight the law. His point is to challenge the helmet law on the basis of discrimination. Arte asked if ABATE would support him in this effort. He also plans to enlist the AMA, NCOM and AIM to make this law a subject of court challenge. Wolf Peterson motioned, "That ABATE support this endeavor." Seconded by Don Ponsaa. Discussion: This could prove to be a black eye for ABATE in the mission of safety. There must be a plan and research must be done prior to any promised support. It was suggested we pick a day where all motorcyclists would ride without a helmet and attempt to combine any tickets to throw out the law. Our AIM attorney would need

to be consulted. Wolf Peterson asked to table his motion until we gather more information. Arte was asked to return at the next State Board meeting with more information.

- D) Lake Charles Chapter
 - 1) The Chapter has continued to experience a lack of participation since Rita and since they are no longer viable has asked to disband. The Chapter property will be returned to the State.
- E) Toy Run
 - 1) The 25th Anniversary of the Magnolia School Toy Run will be held December 10. A special anniversary rocker will be available for purchase. A live band has agreed to play for the event but requires assistance with hotel rooms or travel expenses as they are from Lafayette. Discussion: If the band is monetarily compensated should they not cover their own expenses? A hotel was mentioned that may comp the rooms for a motorcycle related benefit. We need more information of their exact needs and expectations at the November State Board meeting.
 - 2) Nominations for Mr. and Mrs. Claus are open until the November State Board meeting; nominee must be an active ABATE member: Don Ponsaa nominated Gregg and Vicki Miller
 - 3) Special T-Shirts for the Toy Run 25th Anniversary shirts were discussed. Most members of the board expressed a desire for a long sleeve shirt with pocket featuring multiple colors in the design. Shirt colors could be white, grey or red. State Store Manager (bless her heart) will report at the next meeting with costs and options. It was suggested that a picture of the Magnolia School or school clients could be printed on the shirts; perhaps some local dealers could sponsor the shirts.
- F) Membership Increase – Cut Thru Crawford
 - 1) Would like to see if dealerships could be canvassed and allowed to offer a one-year membership to ABATE for every new bike they sold. Membership packages cost ABATE approximately \$5 each. Kinky Kathy Gonzales was charged with setting up a committee to study the feasibility.
 - 2) Kinky Kathy Gonzales asked that Chapter Presidents go to your local area and find out what dealers are receptive to participating. Please report at 11:30 for the next State Board Meeting to discuss. Any prior discussion can be done online.

VI. Other Business

- A) Poet offered a tip of the month, "Check your bike out prior to riding: look for burnt out lights."
- B) Iron Eagle is hosting a rally at Hidden Oaks Campground on November 4-5. They have donated a place for the state store and have asked if ABATE would host the bike games in exchange for any game proceeds.
- C) Legislative Coordinator Ed Harris: All Chapter Presidents should know who and meet their State Representatives. By doing this we are not strangers when we go to them to ask for their support.
- D) The Patriot Guard Riders and their mission were discussed. Many ABATE members are already involved in this effort. There are 43,000 members at this time and are welcome to attend funerals at the request of the deceased's family.
- E) A newspaper report of a recent right-of-way accident of a motorcyclist and passenger was read. The people injured are relatives of a charter member of ABATE, the rider was critically injured and the passenger has since deceased. The driver of the car involved was reportedly a repeat offender of driving while intoxicated, was without a valid license, was under the influence at 0.28 blood alcohol, and made a left turn in front of the riders. Bond was set at \$500 and charges were \$150 each. Since the passenger died, charges are now increased to negligent vehicular homicide and the driver is not locatable. Drivers are becoming very aggressive between New Orleans and Baton Rouge and all we can do is look out and get out of the way. Kinky Kathy stated that the stretch of road in front of the HDBR shop has had at least 5 deaths recently. Please be careful on the road.
- F) Next State Board Meeting is September 23, 2006; Noon, HD of Baton Rouge, LA. Big 5 Chapter to host.
- G) Motion to adjourn by Cut-Thru Crawford; seconded by Kevin Zanca; time 2:12 PM.

Executive Secretary: Lynda Williams

Executive President: James "Poet" Sisco