

A.B.A.T.E of LOUISIANA, INC.
March 11, 2006
State Board Minutes
Harley Davidson of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA

I. Meeting Called To Order

- A) 12:07 P.M. by President James "Poet" Sisco
- B) Prayer led by Hank "Gator" Temento
- 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) GNO/River Parishes Grant "Francis" Miller, Emilie Carroll
 - 2) Big Five Jimmy McDonald, Terry Winborne
 - 3) Northlake Fred "Wolf" Peterson, Jack Mills
 - 4) Lake Charles Laddie Elkins, Barb Sikes
 - 5) Northeast LA Cecil "Cut-Thru" Crawford
- F) Additions to the Agenda
 - 1) Freedom Fighter Awards
- G) Presidents Opening Statement – James "Poet" Sisco
Good to see everyone here. The legislative session this year is important and we have issues we want to bring forth and issues will arise that we'll need to address. We need everyone together to stay focused and informed on legal issues. Our website will be proactive and updated daily if need be. Please pay attention to the website and see what is going on.
- H) Vice Presidents Opening Statement – Sharon "Kinky Kathy" Gonzales
Glad to be here today with everybody. We have a beautiful day to ride and hope to have blue clouds for everyone to ride in today. Our legislative session is important this year. We need everyone to stay focused and help us. We need you to keep other riders and friends informed of the issues and stand beside us while we go through this legislative session.

II. Reports

- A) Reading of the minutes - Lynda Williams, Secretary
 - 1) Minutes of the January 14, 2006 meeting were distributed to board members via email and printed copies are available. Motion to pass the reading and accept the minutes: Wolf Peterson motioned; Cut-Thru Crawford seconded; Vote unanimous.
- B) Financial Report – Barb Sikes, Treasurer
 - 1) Accounts for January through February were discussed. Motion to accept the report: Laddie Elkins motioned; Wolf Peterson seconded; Vote unanimous.
- C) State Store Report – Carol "Amazon" McCarthy, State Products Manager
 - 1) January through February. Motion to accept the report: no motion to accept – do this at next board meeting.
 - 2) State store will be at the following upcoming events: Thunder Over LA, Houma, March 26; St. Jude's Poker Run, Slidell, April 2; Blessing of the Bikes (no sales), New Orleans, April 16; Meet on the Creek, Mt. Herman, April 28-30; Motorcycle Awareness Month Kick-Off Party, Baton Rouge, Aug. 30; 2nd Annual Run for Your Rights Event, Hammond, May 13; 5 O'Clock Somewhere, North LA, June 9-10.
- D) Membership Report - Barb Sikes, Membership Coordinator
 - 1) January and February: 28 new members; 11 renewals including 6 life members; total membership 462.
 - 2) Please send Barb any changes to the membership report and she will correct the master; Do not send cash through the mail; Please do not hold applications or if you are holding please let Barb know so membership packages are not delayed; Advise new members that ABATE cards are mailed from CA and sent out only once a month; Please read over the applications for missing information and ensure handwriting is readable.
 - 3) Membership packages are sent out prior to payment by check clearing the bank. An increase in the number of checks returned for insufficient funds may result in our need to hold membership packages until the checks are cleared.
- E) Newsletter Report – Amazon McCarthy and Gator Temento, Co-Editors- refer to Attachment A for details
 - 1) As of February 2006, Lady Amazon and Gator Temento have accepted responsibility for the newsletter. They plan to develop the publication with the following goals in mind:

Short Term - Include condensed and readable legislative information; Publish interesting and attention getting articles and pictures; Produce the newsletter in hard copy to mail to all members and select non-members.

Long Term - Convert newsletter into a professionally published newspaper or magazine; Change frequency to monthly.

- 2) Members are asked to participate by submitting articles and pictures. Report to the co-editors about events in which you have participated.
 - 3) Members are asked to sell ads in order for the newsletter to continue. Ads will be on the website also. Chapter presidents are asked to inform their membership about the need for selling ads and how to do it.
 - 4) Mass mailing costs were presented- see Attachment B for details.
 - 5) NCOM news should be included in the newsletter. Barb and Carol will get together on invoicing procedures.
- F) Web Master Report - Walter Soto, Webmaster, not present; reported by Poet Sisco
- 1) Our website will be more proactive and updated daily with legislative issues.
 - 2) The webmaster lost his possessions in the storms of 2005 and no longer has a computer. He requires a laptop computer to update and program the website. Chapter Presidents are asked to poll their membership for opinions on purchasing a computer for the webmaster and report at the next board meeting.
- G) Legislative Report, Legislative Director Position vacant; reported by Poet Sisco
- 1) We are in desperate need of a Legislative Director.
 - 2) ABATE is going to press forward on the AMA "Justice for All" bill. Poet Sisco has been in daily contact with AMA Representative Bill Cook for strategic advice and assistance in developing a plan of action. State Representative Mert Smiley is considering sponsorship but is requesting additional information. Kinky Kathy Gonzales and Poet Sisco found that 25 states considered the bill, but only 5 passed it, and of those passed only 1 passed it in the AMA original form. We will pattern our plan after the State of Arkansas, as it passed there most recently and had only one change. We are in contact with the sponsoring Arkansas Senator for more information. AMA has promised to assist with "leave behind packets" for legislators, website promotion and support, and testimonial support. We will need everyone's help to get this passed. Chapter Presidents are to present this information to their members. We also need legislative co-sponsors for this bill.
 - 2) The bill to take the rider education course and money associated with it from motorcycle endorsements and move it from BESE to DOT has died due to lack of a legislative sponsor.
- H) Chapter Reports
- 1) Capitol Area – chapter dissolved
 - 2) GNO/River Parishes, Francis Miller: Approximately 150 members; \$200.00 in checking. The chapter regularly attends Wednesday night bike night at the Pit Stop and since January has signed up 7 new members and sold \$87.50 in merchandise. We are looking for a Legislative Coordinator and an MRF Representative. Membership has been challenged to talk about ABATE to friends to increase membership and we plan to make presentations to other organizations. A membership drive picnic is in the planning stages and an overnight fun trip to Natchez or Vicksburg is in the works. Jerry Forstator, Chapter Historian, and professional photographer by trade, has a bike trailer that members are welcome to use. The Chapter is creating a sales brochure to assist selling ads for the newsletter. The Blessing of the Bikes is a state board event hosted by our chapter and we are already working on the 25th Anniversary of the Magnolia School Toy Run.
 - 3) Big 5, Jimmy McDonald: 24 members; 6 of 10 renewed with 1 life member; \$121.85 in checking. His chapter will get pictures sent to the newsletter. The upcoming Winnsboro Catfish Festival on April 8 usually has 30-45,000 bikers attend and the State Store is invited to attend. The Store trailer will be loaned to the chapter for the event as the manager has previous obligations.
 - 4) Northlake, Wolf Peterson: 119 members, \$199.76 in checking. Working on the "Meet on the Creek/Fun Run", Silver Creek Campground in Mt. Herman, April 28 thru 30, with a fun run on April 29; run benefits go to ABATE. Also hosting the 2nd Annual Run for Your Rights Rally on May 13, Five O'clock Somewhere, Hammond. Flyers available for these events. Any volunteers are welcome.
 - 5) Lake Charles, Laddie Elkins: 28 members, \$200.00 in checking. Poor attendance at the meetings as many are still impacted by the storms aftermath.
 - 6) Northeast, Cut-Thru Crawford: Approximately 70 plus members, \$200.00 in checking. Due to various issues are considering changing the meeting place. A Hog Roast is planned.

III. Announcements

- A) Benefit for Bobby Sheppard, March 11, Smugglers Cove. The run is over but all are invited to attend to enjoy the festivities after the meeting.

V. Old Business

- A) LA Motorcyclists Safety and Awareness Committee (LMSAC) – Kinky Kathy Gonzales
 - 1) The last meeting was attended sparsely; we are still trying to get all types of motorcycle representation and people from all over the state at these meetings. Cut-Thru Crawford and Jimmy McDonald will work on getting north Louisiana involved in the committee. Col. Champagne has not been attending due to an injury, but will be at the next meeting to be held on March 23, in Baton Rouge at the LA Highway Safety Commission Headquarters. The meeting concentrated on the Motorcycle Awareness and Safety Month Rally and kick-off celebration. The rally will be held on the steps of the State Capital on Sunday, April 30, with an after celebration party planned at the USS Kidd with speakers, vendors, and bands.
 - 2) The committee has \$50,000 from the State Tea-Lu funds to pay for the Motorcycle Awareness and Safety Month campaign which features billboards and advertisements.
 - 3) Per Larry Ourso, the Rider Education Program is up and ready to run and the schedule is on the ABATE website.
 - 4) Inquiry on the outcome of our opposition to the wire barriers on Williams Blvd and I-10 was answered. We are still working on the issue, but nothing has been done and the barriers are in total disrepair since being hit by vehicles many times. The local AIM attorney reportedly does not want to get involved until we find legal precedence to remove these barriers. Discussion ensued about the legalities of these barriers on federal and state levels. These poles here do not appear to be constructed with a “break away” design as specified. Laddie Elkins will contact Richard Lester to find out any additional information on the legality of these barriers.
- B) Corporate Memberships – Kinky Kathy Gonzales
 - 1) Chapter Presidents were emailed to determine viability of corporate memberships. Responses from two presidents stated they thought they could be of advantage to us and a good thing to implement. Concern was voiced over using the corporation’s employee numbers to inflate our membership roster. Discussion on the merits of membership numbers and how other ABATE organizations use corporate memberships. Corporate memberships in some state have several levels offered with limited voting rights. It appears most corporate memberships in other States include just one vote and one membership. A chat-room conference call with Chapter Presidents attending will be scheduled by Kinky Kathy Gonzales. Poet Sisco will send instructions on how to join the chat-room.
- C) Katrina Relief Efforts – Barb Sikes
 - 1) Balance as of December 30, 2005 is \$13,214.17; to date balance is \$6,122.83. Ten people have been assisted. Chapter Presidents are asked to advise the committee of anyone in the motorcycling community who needs assistance. Thank you cards have been sent to each organization and individual who has donated to the fund. Funds are only used to reimburse or pay for bills. Cash is not given out carte blanche.
- D) ABATE Flag
 - 1) Large flags were presented and given to representatives of each Chapter and the State’s flag is in possession of the State Store. Poet Sisco asked that nothing be written on the flags. Ribbons will be made to attach to the flags to designate chapters and streamers will be given for certain events and awards. The balance of the flags was placed in the State Store for replacement flags or for new chapters. People were asked to be careful of the flags as this is the first time we have had the opportunity to obtain them.
- E) Toy Run
 - 1) Arrangements were made to get the sleigh to the Northshore for repair.
- F) Blessing of the Bikes
 - 1) GNO/RP Chapter is hosting this event. Blessing of the Bike pins are in stock and a newly designed rocker for this year’s event, “25th Anniver.” is on order.
 - 2) The Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival would be a good opportunity to place flyers for the Blessing and the Motorcycle Awareness Month Celebration on bikes and at the festival.
- G) Justice for All Legislation – R.O.W. Bill
 - 1) The leave behind packages for the State Legislature has state specific data pertinent to Louisiana. Bill discussed at Item G, 2.
- H) Helmet Stickers

- 1) Amazon McCarthy got prices of \$2.00 for stickers like our patch. Barb Sikes will get prices for the ABATE emblem as printed on the bumper stickers.
- 2) Barb Sikes will order 1000 "Purple" bumper stickers for Motorcycle Awareness and Safety Month.

V. New Business

- A) Poker Hand Prices – Wolf Peterson
 - 1) Current By-Laws state that poker hands are \$15.00. Wolf made a motion, "We raise the poker hand from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per hand, and charge \$10.00 for a passenger to participate who does not buy a hand". Seconded by Francis Miller. Discussion: No one should be charged to ride and participate in the run if they do not buy a poker hand. Some runs charge less than \$15.00 and these are hard times in which to increase fees. Vote: 2 for; 6 opposed; motion failed.
- B) Committee to Study Ways to Streamline Membership Process – Wolf Peterson
 - 1) In an effort to gain membership, we would offer a free one-year membership to a new bike purchaser to be given by a participating motorcycle dealership(s). Wolf was asked to table the discussion and do some research on the details on how this idea would work.
- C) State Board Vacancies
 - 1) State Sergeant of Arms and State Legislative Director are vacant. Chapter Presidents are asked to propose the legislative position to your members. This office needs someone who can track and research legislation.
 - 2) State Sergeant of Arms was voted to be Pat Nerney.
- D) Replacement for Stolen Trailer
 - 1) The Katrina Relief Committee has funds and our trailer was stolen during Katrina. Could we possibly use some of these funds to replace that trailer? It was determined the money was donated to help the people to recover from the storms.
 - 2) Open discussion determined a consensus that we do not replace the utility trailer as most people already have access to a trailer for runs and events.
 - 3) Insurance coverage on the State Store trailer was discussed. Amazon McCarthy will investigate insurance costs and available coverage and present at the next board meeting.
- E) Committee Meeting for Using the Web Chat Room
 - 1) Previously discussed at last board meeting. The present Chat-Room has pop ups and the webmaster is looking at better programs.

VI. Other Business

- A) Freedom Fighter Awards; Year bars were awarded to members as stated in January 2006 Minutes. No other award petitions were presented.
- B) Wolf Peterson suggested we have a decal made in the form of the Freedom Fighter patch. This would be used as a bumper or windshield sticker. Chapter presidents are to ask membership if they are interested in this item and pricing will be researched.
- C) We would like to purchase some greeting cards to have on hand to send to members for thank you notes and get well cards. Barb Sikes will order some cards.
- D) Please remember to send a copy of any response letters from our legislators to the State Secretary. We want to track which legislators are sympathetic to our cause and give members recognition.
- E) Poet Sisco met with the State Coordinator of ABATE of Colorado. She indicated their state board meetings are 10 hours long with 29 chapters reporting.
- F) A thank you letter from the Magnolia School was read aloud. It praised our efforts in conducting the Toy Run of December 11, 2005. Monetary donations were \$2,220.00 in addition to all the gifts for the residents. Many residents were concerned the run would not happen since the tragedy of Katrina upset so many lives. They expressed many thanks for bringing such joy and happiness to the residents and are proud to have us as part of the Magnolia family.

VII. Adjournment

- A) Next State Board Meeting: May 13, 2006; Noon, HD of Baton Rouge, LA. GNO/RP to host.
- B) Motion to adjourn by Wolf Peterson, Seconded by Cut-Thru Crawford; Time 2:20 P.M.

Executive Secretary: Lynda Williams
Executive President: James "Poet" Sisco