

A.B.A.T.E of LOUISIANA, INC.
March 10, 2007 State Board Minutes
Bobtails, 7500 Highway 4, Winnsboro, LA

I. Meeting Called To Order

- A) 12:13 PM by President James "Poet" Sisco
- B) Prayer led by meeting guest
- C) Pledge of Allegiance led by Poet Sisco
- D) Recognize Sergeant-at-Arms, Jimmy Womack, Big 5 Chapter
- E) Chapters and their two voting delegates identified for this meeting
 - 1) Big 5 Jimmy McDonald, Scott Fortenberry
 - 2) GNO/River Parishes Grant "Francis" Miller, E. T. Malbrough
 - 3) Northeast Cecil "Cut-Thru" Crawford, Mark Jolly
 - 4) Northlake Gregg Miller, Jack Mills
- F) Additions to the Agenda
 - 1) Item V, I: Freedom Fighter Patch and Year Bar
 - 2) Item V, J: MAP funding
- G) Presidents Opening Statement – Poet Sisco
Welcome to everyone here. This is one of largest state board meetings we have had in years. It's good to see the involvement in our organization. We have lots of great news to hear about today and we welcome the visitors from Northwest Louisiana.
- H) Vice Presidents Opening Statement – Sharon "Kinky Kathy" Gonzales
I am glad to see the great turnout and hope you have been enjoying all the beautiful riding weather. We have a full schedule the next couple of months that we'll discuss later. Our MAP program is a success and ABATE is starting to work like a well oiled machine. This is a wonderful time to be an ABATE member. Thank you for allowing me to be your Vice-President and wish everyone a safe ride home.

II. Reports

- A) Reading of the minutes - Lynda Williams, Secretary
 - 1) Minutes of the January 13, 2007 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; Mark Jolly seconded; Vote unanimous.
- B) Financial Report – Pat Malbrough, Treasurer
 - 1) Accounts for January and February were read. Ledgers and bank statements are available for review. Motion to accept the report: Cut-Thru motioned; Francis Miller seconded; Vote unanimous.
 - 2) Contact information forms were given to each Chapter President for completion and return to Pat. We need to start complying with several Bylaw items: Chapter financial reports and copies of bank statements must be provided to the State Treasurer on a monthly basis. Original bank statements must be turned in on an annual basis. When your chapter treasury balance is low your request for funds to replenish must be in writing.
 - 3) The State Treasurer address is P O Box 789, Metairie, LA 70004.
 - 4) Members who sign up as a couple can have different last names but must have the same mailing address.
- C) State Store Report – Carol "Lady Amazon" McCarthy, State Products Manager
 - 1) January through February reports were read.
- D) Membership Report - Barb Sikes, Membership Coordinator
 - 1) January and February: 29 new members including 3 lifers; 21 renewals; total 466.
 - 2) On the triplicate membership applications write in the \$15.00 fee; this fee is only for new members.
- E) Bayou Bikin' News (BBN) Report – Hank "Gator" Temento and Lady Amazon McCarthy, Co-Editors
 - 1) January through February reports were read.
 - 2) The March-April issue of BBN represents one year that Lady Amazon and Gator have been editors. Over the last 12 months BBN has grown in content, advertising and readership. As a result this has brought a lot of interest in ABATE of LA to members and non-members. The readership has quadrupled and is now being distributed in some Harley shops. Before this year BBN was dependent on ABATE of LA for all expenditures. Today it is financially independent, thanks to many members who have sold advertisements. The first full page flagship ad by Mike Bruno's Harley Davidson in Slidell appears in this month's issue.
 - 3) Our members dictate to the BBN what they want to see published even though we have nationwide readership. They wanted to know what our local politicians think, so the current issue has several interviews with state level office holders.
 - 4) BBN is available via email (high-speed internet required), the ABATE website, or USPS mail.

- F) Webmaster Report – Webmaster position vacant, reported by Poet Sisco
 - 1) Poet will continue to work the website until Mark Weitz can devote more time to the job.
 - 2) January hits recorded were 18,759; the BBN had 2,573 hits which was more than the main page. February hits were 22,948; the BBN hits dropped as the publication is bi-monthly. We have more than doubled the hits on the website in the past year.
 - 3) Each Chapter will have their own webpage by the next state board meeting. Poet may still have to load the chapter information if the program is not updated by that time.
 - 4) Bandwidth is being monitored and will be addressed as needed.
- G) Legislative Report - Ed Harris, Legislative Coordinator absent; reported by Poet Sisco
 - 1) No bills are being introduced this year affecting the motorcyclist in Louisiana. However, a lot of other States who do have bills and need our support. If we assist them they will remember us and help us with our bills in the future. Next year will be a heavy legislature year.
- H) LA Motorcyclist Safety and Awareness Committee (LMSAC) – Kinky Kathy Gonzales and Poet Sisco
 - 1) ABATE of Louisiana petitioned the state to form this committee in the fall of 2004. It includes members of ABATE of Louisiana, MAC, the LA Highway and Safety Commission, and many other motorcycle groups such as HOG, Goldwings, Southern Cruisers, Blue Knights. They decide what issues affect the motorcyclists of this state and implement solutions. The committee was responsible for obtaining motorcycle awareness billboards in May 2005 and 2006. They were able to change the design of future cable barriers used on our roads that are less harmful when hit. The next meeting is March 15, 9:30 AM at LA Highway Safety Commission headquarters in Baton Rouge. Visitors are welcome and we need representation from all areas of the state.
 - 2) Current projects include: a brochure to be placed at welcome centers that advises travelers about sharing the road with motorcyclists; and adding questions about motorcycle awareness on the state driver's license exam.
 - 3) April 29th is a planned rally at the steps of the State Capitol to kick off May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. A bugler will play taps as names are read of people who died in motorcycle accidents (a board will be at the location to add names). HDBR on Seigen Lane will have an after rally open house and the ABATE tent will be there. Francis Miller will design a flyer to be distributed at the rally to inform people of the after rally gathering.
- I) Public Relations Report – Emilie Carroll, Public Relations Director absent; report read by Lynda Williams
 - 1) State events will be published in the Times Picayune on March 11, Thunder Roads Magazine and the CMA website. A request was made for Poet and Col. Champagne to appear on WWL-TV Ch 4 on April 27th to promote the Capitol Rally and announce May as Motorcycle Awareness Month.
- J) Motorcycle Awareness Program (MAP) – Steve Schwarer, MAP Coordinator
 - 1) Steve introduced the MAP program which currently targets educating High School Driver Education Students about sharing the road with and how to look out for motorcyclists. This volunteer program been in place for almost a year in Jefferson Parish and we have reached somewhere around 800. We hope to expand the program to all drivers. The main focus of the program is to equate the human element rather than just statistics and crash figures. Steve is here today assist Cut-Thru as he expressed interest in getting this program into local schools in Northeast LA. After the meeting he will go over the details and materials of the class and anyone interested is welcome to attend.
- K) Chapter Reports
 - 1) Big 5, Jimmy McDonald: 64 members. Recognized Smugglers Paradise for food donations and Roddy Hatfield for food donations and Terry Winbourne for allowing use his establishment for our meeting today. A benefit is planned for next week to assist a child injured in a vehicle wreck. Our new secretary is Christi Lachney. The National Autistic Foundation would like our support to raise money for their cause. They were asked to provide a letter that detailed what they expect from ABATE and the board can then sanction the event.
 - 2) GNO/River Parishes, Francis Miller: 170 members. We continue to set up our tent at bike night at the Pit Stop in Jefferson Parish. We are working the Blessing of the Bikes.
 - 3) Northeast, Cecil Crawford: 46 members. Had a quorum at the last meeting and are trying to get new members to join. They are discussing a possible "Awareness Run" to the Capitol steps and will be working the upcoming "Run for Jerry's Kids".
 - 4) Northlake, Gregg Miller: 126 members. We are actively working the "Run for Your Rights" event scheduled for May.

III. Announcements - None.

IV. Old Business

- A) Corporate Memberships – Poet Sisco
 - 1) Poet stated the research was completed. Discussion included ad size, payment for the decal, voting privileges and approval of the ad. The proposal was restated as, "We offer corporate

memberships on two levels: Gold: \$100/yr, certificate, one chapter level vote, and business listing up to 60 spaces in BBN and website. Platinum: \$300/yr, certificate, one chapter level vote, a business card size ad in BBN and website, and display on the state store trailer a business ad decal not to exceed 12" x 18", provided by the business, details of which are to be approved by the State Store Manager." Francis Miller motioned "We accept the proposal as stated"; Gregg Miller seconded. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous. It was agreed that \$150.00 of the platinum corporate membership fee would be credited to the BBN checking account; this is the yearly charge for a business card ad in BBN; no compensation will be given for the gold level business listing.

- B) Harley for Horses – Lynda Williams
 - 1) Flyers for the event are available. ABATE of Louisiana will be sponsoring the Harley for Horses Run on Sunday, April 22. All proceeds go to the GNO Therapeutic Riding Center, a non-profit organization who conducts this ride to benefit the center. The police escorted ride starts at St. John Community Center, LaPlace to Port Vincent for lunch and ends at the St. Rose Travel Center. We will need 10 volunteers to handle registration, serve lunch, and assist at the end of the ride.
- C) Fall Fling – Kinky Kathy Gonzales
 - 1) The chat room meeting was held and the only participant was from the Northlake Chapter. We have some information on applying to use the Spillway. No other input from any chapters on where the event should be held. Chapter Presidents were asked to attend the next meeting.
- D) Magnolia School Toy Run – Kinky Kathy Gonzales
 - 1) The Magnolia School event coordinator expressed interest in offering motorcycle rides for the clients on school grounds sometime this summer however liability issues are a concern. A picnic was discussed offered but the prevailing opinion was there are many events already scheduled and it would be difficult to add another. Next year may be a better time.
- E) Chat Room Service – Poet Sisco
 - 1) The Chat Room program we agreed to purchase at the last meeting will be ordered and Poet will distribute instructions on how to use and capture the minutes once received and installed.
- F) Pop's Park – Francis Miller Chairman / Poet Sisco
 - 1) Still waiting for the preliminary architectural drawings for Pop's Park; architect is donating his time and is very busy right now. We will try to find another architect who could assist. This park is located on the Westbank off Hwy 90 and is officially named by the State Legislature for Pops Stroman, the founder of ABATE of Louisiana. Planned modifications to the park include a pavilion with a memorial wall. All materials and labor are to be donated. We must submit plans and artist rendition to apply for DOT approval. Tabled until the next meeting.
- G) Membership Incentives – Chapter Presidents report
 - 1) Discussed the membership fee reduction which already is bringing in new members. Existing members are not suggesting we need anything more at this time.
 - 2) It was suggested we review the membership renewal procedure and investigate changing all regular members to a once yearly expiration date. A synopsis will be sent so this can be placed on the May agenda.
- H) Blessing of the Bikes 2007 – Kinky Kathy Gonzales
 - 1) Set up for April 8, 2007, 2PM Lake Town in Kenner, near the Treasure Chest Casino at Williams Blvd. and Lake Pontchartrain. Flyers are available.
- I) Run for Your Rights – Jack Mills
 - 1) The 3rd Annual Rally is scheduled for Saturday May 19 at Talisheek Grocery on Hwy 435. Vendors are welcome to attend as is anyone who can donate time, merchandise or money toward the event. Primitive camping is available and all are welcome.
 - 2) Cut-Thru Crawford mentioned their local "Run for the Wall" event is the same weekend so most likely the Northern Chapters members will not be attending. The organizations up north meet every few months to schedule events and avoid date conflicts.

V. New Business

- A) Motorcycle Shops and free membership – Goal for 2007 – Gregg Miller, Tabled
- B) Membership Service Book – Gregg Miller
 - 1) A service book was started and passed out to board members. This is a tool for ABATE members to learn of services that other members can offer and encourages networking. It can benefit members and the service provider. A soft copy will be emailed to all members to would like to participate. There is no charge to be included in the book.
- C) List of ABATE accomplishments and Tri-fold revisions
 - 1) The accomplishments of ABATE are published on the website on the "Join ABATE" link.
 - 2) Pat Nerney has been working on updating the Tri-fold design. It has been distributed for feedback and will be sent out in the next two weeks for further review.
- D) Sergeant at Arms – Poet Sisco

- 1) The State Sergeant-at-Arms (SAA) position will rotate to the hosting Chapter SAA at each state board meeting they can become familiar with Robert's Rules of Order. The current State SAA will assist. Copies of Robert's Rules were distributed to each Chapter.
- E) Flags and Awards posted at HDBR shop – Poet Sisco
 - 1) It was previously suggested that our awards and flags be permanently displayed at our normal meeting place at the Baton Rouge HD meeting room. The dealership will not allow the awards to be hung on the walls, but would allow us display on a board the day of our meeting which could be stored at the dealership. Other items such as flags, signs, and banners could also be displayed on the day of the meeting. Poet will ask if we can place a permanent banner outside the store.
 - 2) All agreed the best idea is to mount the awards and display them with the state store; Jack Mills will initiate.
- F) By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, and Resolutions – Lynda Williams
 - 1) All board officers were emailed copies of the Bylaws, updated Resolutions and updated Policies and Procedures for review. Hard copies were passed to all board members. These are also posted on the website on the “forms” link. Please review and if anyone has questions or concerns contact our officers and/or ask for the item to be placed on a meeting agenda.
- G) Capitol Rally for Motorcycle Awareness Month – Poet Sisco (See Item II. H. 3. for discussion)
- H) Membership Application Procedures – Grant Miller
 - 1) Grant Miller motioned, “We send all membership applications to the Membership Coordinator who will forward them to the State Treasurer.”; seconded by Gregg Miller. Discussion: State Treasurer feels that office is responsible and applications and money should be sent directly to the treasury address. The Membership Coordinator stated it can maintain a more efficient method of processing applications if the membership applications and payments are sent to directly to the membership office. Our preprinted triplicate applications have the Membership Coordinator's address and were recently reordered; these would need to be reprinted. If we change the method we will still have applications sent to two locations which could confuse control and responsibility. The Treasurer has no liability until they are in receipt of the money. If needed, mail could be tracked by a verification of receipt for a minimal cost. The member names should be readable on the copies sent to the Treasurer. Vote: Unanimous.
- I) Freedom Fighter Patch and Year Bar
 - 1) Freedom Fighter Patch inventory is depleted and we need to reorder. No one expressed interest in changing the design.
 - 2) Year Bars are ordered on a yearly basis. Few people display this bar. General discussion determined the State Store Manager will research replacing the year bar with year pins, with two anchor points, that could encircle the patch contour and will report findings at the next meeting.
- J) Motorcycle Awareness Program (MAP) Funding - Poet Sisco
 - 1) Ms. Angie Jones, a LA state employee, reported the MAP funding contract went into effect March 1. Steve Schwarer and Poet will meet at the LA State Highway and Safety Commission to fully execute the contract this Thursday. Retroactive to March 1, the MAP program will be paid \$350.00 for each class conducted, including instructors classes. This payment covers any consumables, defined as bumper stickers, papers, tests. We can be reimbursed for non-consumables such as easels, posters, and a computer. Total maximum reimbursement is \$5,000.00 this first contact year. A separate bank account will be established for the MAP program with all expenditures and payments going through that account. After discussion it was determined that ABATE of Louisiana will provide the MAP account \$1,500.00 for a computer and an initial account opening of \$2,000.00. As the State reimburses the MAP account for the class payments and the computer, the MAP account will repay ABATE. Our State Treasurer will keep separate ledgers to account for the \$3,500.00 fronted to the account.

VI. Other Business

- A) Capture the Flag Award
 - 1) Winners for 2006 were GNO/RP and Northlake Chapters; Streamers were presented.
 - 2) Billboard contest: The winner chosen by the board was Michael Baker of the Northlake Chapter.
- B) Open Floor to any other discussions – None.
- C) Next meeting May 12, 2007, Noon; HDBR (Must have 30 days notice prior to the meeting).
- D) Motion to adjourn by Gregg Miller, seconded by Mark Jolly, time 2:42 PM.

Executive Secretary: Lynda Williams

Executive President: James "Poet" Sisco