

Changes can be made later once the chapter WebPages is implemented. Please send links to Poet for approval prior to sending to Marc.

- 2) Discussion of changing the new website picture. The idea behind the picture was to show diversity of our organization.
- G) Legislative Report - Reported by Poet Sisco
- 1) State HB747 – Concerns off road ATV and dirt bikes. Requires education and adult supervision for anyone under the age of 16 to legally operate an off road vehicle. Also limits the engine size certain age groups can ride. Parents will be responsible for any ticket fines. The safety courses are scattered across the state. Information about this bill is located on our website.
 - 2) Federal HR614 – This supports the goal of a National Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month. Please contact your congressmen to support this resolution.
 - 3) Federal HIPPA loophole closure. Contact your congressmen to support closure of the loophole that allows insurance companies to deny health care coverage needed if involved in a motorcycle accident.
 - 4) We need people to go to the capital to testify when this bill and others come up for committee reviews.
- H) LA Motorcyclist Safety and Awareness Committee (LMSAC) – Poet Sisco
- 1) This committee has a lot of problems in regard to Motorcycle Awareness Month. Supposedly there are 10 billboards up statewide but no one knows where they are located. The committee was not told where they would be or allow them a choice of board.
 - 2) The state produced commercial about motorcycle riding and drinking was shown; many members had already seen this aired on television. State Board members were canvassed for their reactions and comments: “Very opinionated film which gives the impression that most of the accidents are the fault of the drunken riders; looks like all bikers are drinkers; Stereotypes the biker which influences the general populace and insurance companies and puts the motorcyclist down; Reminds us of Hollister in California and the staged picture of a drunk biker; Promotes bad images from past movies that depict the motorcyclist as trash and a trouble maker; Motorcycling is a hobby and sport, just like water skiing, boating and fishing and the image supported in the film disputes that.”
The LMSAC Committee was promised ownership and approval of the content of all ads for Motorcycle and Awareness Month. This did not happen. The Committee was shown this film at the last LMSAC meeting after the ad was already released. Reportedly NHTSA wanted the State to concentrate on drinking and riding. The Committee voted to not approve the ad and was told it would be pulled in three days. This did not happen and the ad continues to air. Col. Champagne as he did not hold to his word to pull this ad and this will be addressed at the next meeting. The current Governor, as we know is very anti-motorcycling; she attempted to stop the Capital Rally and the existence of the LMSAC Committee. Hopefully our next governor will be Bobby Jindal as he has already stated he will make LMSAC a state entity which will give the committee some authority.
What vehicle can we use to fight this bad image and stop statistics from being skewed and misquoted? Figures quoted in earlier years by Col Champaign are now changed to serve his purpose today. Col. Champagne does fight for us against the Governors wishes in some cases He serves in the Governor appointed position as Executive Director and Governor’s Highway Safety Representative.
- I) Public Relations Report – Emilie Carroll, Public Relations Director absent; report read by Lynda Williams
- 1) Press releases for Motorcycle Awareness Month and State Rep. Baudoin sponsored HB 747 were read. Secured a spot on WWL-TV morning show on Thursday, May 10 to promote May as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month. Press releases will be archived for six months on the website.
- J) Motorcycle Awareness Program (MAP) – Steve Schwarer, MAP Coordinator absent, Poet Sisco reported
- 1) Classes are scheduled for May 29 and June 4 in Jefferson Parish. People are needed to gear up to give these classes. The reimbursement check for the \$3500 we fronted to fund the MAP program expenses will be given to our State Treasurer this week. If we can get the power point program going we could receive a minimum funding of \$10,000 next year.
- K) Chapter Reports
- 1) Big 5: 51 members, no report.
 - 2) GNO/River Parishes, E. T. Malbrough: 172 members, 68 lifers, 3 youth. We continue to set up our tent at bike night at the Pit Stop in Jefferson Parish to sign up more members. We participated in the Blessing of the Bikes, Harley for Horses Benefit Ride, and the Rally at the

Capital in April. We will be co-hosting the Run for Your Rights Rally May 19. Steve Schwarer is planning another MOA instructor training session and we plan to participate in the two upcoming MAP classes.

- 3) Northeast, Mark Jolly: 43 members. They will be participating in the MDA Run next month in West Monroe. The meeting place has changed to the Huddle House at the 101 Truck Stop at 6:30 on the 3rd Thursday of each month.
- 4) Northlake, Gregg Miller: 144 members, 19 lifers. Proceeds from the Silver Creek event were reported. Today four members are working our tent at a Blue Knights Event in Franklinton. Last week we participated at the CMA Run for the Son in Kentwood. We are extremely busy working the "Run for Your Rights" event scheduled for next weekend. Please come and assist with vendor layout and port-a-let set up etc., at Talisheek tomorrow around noon. Lady Amazon was recognized for all her hard work.

III. Announcements - None.

IV. Old Business

- A) Blessing of the Bikes 2007 – Kinky Kathy Gonzales absent; reported by Poet Sisco
 - 1) The event had limited participation of about 50 bikes because of the weather, but it was a great event.
- B) Harley for Horses – Lynda Williams
 - 1) Anita Hartzell, the director of the Greater New Orleans Therapeutic Riding Center was very grateful for everyone who participated as a rider or a volunteer. She sent a thank you to us stating the event was fabulous and thought everyone had a great sense of humor. She thanked all for ideas to solve some of the problems and really appreciated ABATE helping out.
- C) Fall Fling – Kinky Kathy Gonzales absent; reported by Poet Sisco
 - 1) No planning progress has been made since the last board meeting. Many other activities and events have taken our time. Greg Miller motioned, "We table this event planning until the beginning of next year"; seconded by Marc Jolly. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous.
- D) Chat Room Service – Poet Sisco
 - 1) Marc will activate the website Chat Room and provide administrative rights to chapter presidents. Email instructions on how to use the program will be sent. A link will be provided on each chapter home page and the state board page.
- E) Pop's Park – Francis Miller Chairman absent; tabled to next meeting
- F) Run for Your Rights – Jack Mills
 - 1) The 3rd Annual Rally is scheduled for Saturday, May 19 at Talisheek Grocery on Hwy 435. Poker Run starts at Daiquiri Depot at 9 AM. We are still taking donations for prizes. Everyone is invited to come and have a great time. J. J. Muggler Band and a possible mystery guest to perform.
- G) Membership Service Book – Gregg Miller
 - 1) The Northlake Chapter voted to list all of their members in the service book unless a member indicated they did not wish to be included. There has been little feedback from other chapters. Gregg asked that chapter officers poll their members via email and regular mail for feedback on how they would like to participate in the book. Jack Mills is the administrator.
- H) Tri-Fold Revision – Pat Nerney
 - 1) Soft copies of the revised Tri-Fold have been emailed to officers in the past few months asking for feedback. Hard copies in color/back and white were distributed to all board members. Changes, format, and color were discussed and some changes were offered. Gregg Miller motioned, "We accept the yellow copy as written in its basic format with the exception of the 800 numbers and some sentence structure under accomplishments"; seconded by Mark Jolly. Discussion: All changes are to be sent to Pat by Wednesday, May 16, so we have these available for the Run for Your Rights and Ride for Jerry's Kids. Vote: Unanimous.
- I) Flags and Awards posted at HDBR shop – Poet Sisco
 - 1) The awards are displayed in a shadow box that stays with the state store. Pat Nerney offered to make poster replicas if a chapter wants a copy of the display.
- J) Capitol Rally for Motorcycle Awareness Month – Poet Sisco
 - 1) It was a great rally. The LMSAC website has a video of one of the news reports of the rally. Several news media covered the event in Northeast LA and in Baton Rouge.
- K) Freedom Fighter Patch and Year Bar – Carol McCarthy
 - 1) The old supplier of the Freedom Fighter Patch can not locate our artwork. Carol will pursue getting the design to the supplier.

- 2) We can replace the year bar with a metal stamped pin with two anchor points that would follow the circle of the patch.
- L) Motorcycle Awareness Program (MAP) Funding - Poet Sisco
- 1) Discussed at Item II, J. 1.

V. New Business

- A) Motorcycle Shops and free membership, Goal for 2007 – Gregg Miller tabled to next meeting
- B) Membership Dues Renewal Structure – Francis Miller tabled to next meeting
- C) Southern Cross Conference
- 1) This conference started in 1995 because our southern states are not receiving a fair share of federal highway funds taken at our gas pumps. Kinky Kathy would like to represent Abate of Louisiana, Inc. at the next conference to be held at Heavenly Acres Campground, Virginia, Sept. 15, and be reimbursed for any reasonable expenses to attend.
 - 2) Gregg Miller motioned, "We have a representative at the Southern Cross Conference and they be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred. The expenses would include gas, food and lodging." Seconded by Jack Mills. Discussion: Receipts for actual expenditures must be submitted for all reimbursements. ABATE could pay for the lodging in advance with the amount to be approved by the board. A daily food allowance of up to \$40.00 per day maximum; receipts are required. ABATE will pay the registration fee for the event. Vote: Unanimous.
- D) Meeting of the Minds
- 1) Poet Sisco would like to attend this conference to be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Sept. 20-23. We have not attended this conference in 5 years. Mark Jolly motioned, "We use the same formula for reimbursement as used in regard to the Southern Cross Conference discussed in above item V., C." E.T. Malbrough seconded. Discussion: How many travel days will the trip involves. Determined it would be a maximum of 7 days. Vote: Unanimous.
 - 2) Add item to next meeting agenda, "Reimbursements to attend conferences to be added to Policies and Procedures Manual".
 - 3) If the person cannot attend the conference as planned the board should be informed so a substitute can attend.

VI. Other Business

- A) Open Floor to any other discussions
- 1) Next meeting we will consider revising the State Newsletter checking account maximum cap of \$1,000 as required by our Policies and Procedures Manual.
 - 2) Our meetings are growing and we need to keep discussion to a minimum. Reports could be submitted prior to the board meeting for review and just be accepted at the meeting like the minutes are accepted. If someone had something special to say they could ask to be placed on the agenda. It would help if members were aware and informed of items on the agenda so needless discussion and confrontation can be avoided.
- B) Next meeting July 14, 2007, Noon; Harley Davidson of Baton Rouge; Northlake Chapter to host
- C) Motion to adjourn by E.T. Malbrough, seconded by Gregg Miller, time 2:20 PM.

Executive Secretary: Lynda Williams

Executive President: James "Poet" Sisco