

A.B.A.T.E of LOUISIANA, INC.
September 23, 2006 - State Board Minutes
Harley Davidson of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA

I. Meeting Called To Order

- A) 12:11 PM by President James "Poet" Sisco
- B) Prayer led by Poet Sisco
- 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, Jimmy Ward (joined meeting at II, E, 3)
 - 2) GNO/River Parishes Grant "Francis" Miller, Emilie Carroll
 - 3) Northeast Cecil "Cut-Thru" Crawford, Lucas Lisotta
 - 4) Northlake Fred "Wolf" Peterson, Peter Aranyosi
- F) Additions to the Agenda - none
- G) Presidents Opening Statement – Poet Sisco

As always I am glad to see all of you today and wish we could get together more often. Have found a way to finance the "Share the Road Program" with (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) SAFETEA-LU funds. We are meeting with Col. Champagne on Tuesday and will find out how we obtain those funds. States organizations, like ours, are being funded by this program.
- H) Vice Presidents Opening Statement – Sharon "Kinky Kathy" Gonzales

Welcome to everyone here today and hope everyone had a good ride. Please be careful out on the road. Please look and collect any news media reports on motorcycle accidents and obituaries and email or send to Poet Sisco for a project he is compiling.

II. Reports

- A) Reading of the minutes - Lynda Williams, Secretary
 - 1) Minutes of the July 8, 2006 meeting were distributed to board members via email and printed copies are available. Corrections made to Item IV, A, 2, line 1, "50" changed to "25". Motion to pass the reading and accept the minutes as corrected: Cut-Thru Crawford motioned; Wolf Peterson seconded; Vote unanimous.
- B) Financial Report – Barb Sikes, Treasurer
 - 1) Accounts for July and August reported. 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) July through August reported.
 - 2) Vote conducted for the 25th Anniversary Toy Run T-Shirt style: 3 for long sleeve, 1 for short sleeves, 2 abstain. Long sleeve will be ordered.
 - 3) Crazy Larry memorial patches are available from the State Store or at the Pit Stop bike night at the GNORP tent.
- D) Membership Report - Barb Sikes, Membership Coordinator
 - 1) July and August: 25 new members; 24 renewals including 3 life members; total 432.
 - 2) Membership applications will be ordered and fax number changed to cell phone number.
- E) Bayou Bikin' News Report – Amazon McCarthy, Co-Editor
 - 1) A checking account was opened for the State Newsletter.
 - 2) Guidelines were established: checking account must be reported to the State Treasurer monthly and is limited. Our By-Laws will be revised to include this limit.
 - 3) Carol presented problems and solutions of publishing the newsletter; reproduction concerns, current mailing costs versus bulk mailing, the long term goal of making BBN a successful magazine, and plans to mail the newsletter to all members and selected non-members via bulk mail. The Co-Editors of BBN asked for a monthly subsidy until such time advertisements will cover those costs. Francis Miller motioned, "We grant a monthly subsidy to BBN to assist with reproduction and mailing costs"; seconded by Wolf Peterson. Discussion: Advertisements have been hard to sell in the past because of a lack of physical copies. The subsidy should only be furnished to bring the BBN checking account up to and not exceeding its established limit and that the newsletter not exceed of 40 pages (20 sheets). It was decided to revisit these limitations at the next January board meeting. Vote: Unanimous.
- F) Webmaster Report – Webmaster position vacant, reported by Poet Sisco
 - 1) The webmasters laptop computer is in service and website redesigned. A new page is added; "MAP" Motorcycle Awareness Program". All agreed the website was looking great.

- G) Legislative Report - Ed Harris, Legislative Coordinator absent, reported by Leslie "Penny" Harris.
- 1) Copies of the LA Laws affecting motorcyclists were given to officers for sharing with members.
 - 2) Elections are upcoming; be informed about the candidates and know your representative. Register to vote and vote.
 - 3) On September 26, Ed will be attending the meeting with Col. Champagne to talk about future legislative plans. He will also attend the Southern Cross Conference in October.
 - 4) Poet asked Ed to draft a letter to candidates asking their stand in regard to motorcyclists and asked those letters be reviewed by executive state board members prior to mailing. Ed should prepare a leave behind packet for helmet law repeal.
- H) Chapter Reports
- 1) Big 5, Jimmy McDonald: Picked up 9 new members. They held a benefit for Tony Harwell who has Lou Gehrig's disease; raised donations to help pay for a wheelchair and van. Julie Weed has accepted the Secretary position and she is already a great asset.
 - 2) GNO/River Parishes, Francis Miller: 162 members. Still successfully working bike nights at the Pit Stop and signing up 2-3 people per month. Several members have already completed their 100 Freedom Fighter points. Will need some volunteers to help the benefit for Jeff McGuire's twin daughter on October 15.
 - 3) Northeast, Cut-Thru Crawford: 44 members. Still having problems getting people to the meeting; Luke, VP, Squirrel are the only active members. Meetings are Thursday nights; have tried changing meetings on weekends with no improved participation. Francis Miller offered to come to the meeting and help to get better attendance. They have held some chapter events (hog roast, fish fry) with good participation. There are no establishments in the area that have a "bike night" and communication channels to the motorcycling public are few.
 - 4) Northlake, Wolf Peterson: 114 members. Chapter is working on a Poker Run benefit with proceeds going to pay for a memorial stone for Shelley Cancienne on October 14. Flyers will be emailed.

III. Announcements

Benefit for Straightpipe who was hit by a car while riding; plan for Noon today; The Wharf, Hwy 22, Sorrento.

All are invited to join them after the meeting.

Southern Cross Conference, 10/6-8, Old Sawmill Town, TX.

Blue Knights Poker Run, 10/8, St. Rose Truck Stop, LBO 11 AM, ends at Southport; State Store will attend.

Professors Cycle, 10/8, 24th Customer Appreciation Party, 2900 Cleary, Metairie, Noon till?

Kallie McGuire Benefit, 10/15, Harahan Gym, 1100 Hickory Ave, Harahan, 4-9 PM

6th Annual Halloween Bike Fest, 10/19-22, No Problem Raceway, Belle Rose

1st Annual Iron Eagle Motorcycle Rally, 11/4-6, Hidden Oaks Campground, Robert; State Store will attend.

Keep Max Green and his wife in your thoughts; minor motorcycle accident but are ok.

Gary Feldman had knee replacement surgery; hospitals are in dire need of blood donations.

IV. Old Business

- A) LA Motorcyclists Safety and Awareness Committee (LMSAC) – Kinky Kathy Gonzales and Poet Sisco
- 1) Last meeting was Thursday, September 21; having a problem with attendance at the meeting.
 - 2) SAFETEA-LU money not yet available and we do not have a date when they are expected.
 - 3) Working on an awareness brochure which will be given out at Louisiana welcome centers.
 - 4) LMSAC website is expected to be accessible in November.
 - 5) LMSAC is not a state entity and we plan to pursue methods on how to make it one. As an entity it could enforce policy rather than just make suggestions or guidelines.
- B) Corporate Memberships – Kinky Kathy Gonzales
- 1) Committee members met and after discussion with a professional fundraiser, decided that major research into corporate giving and the requirements is needed before making any decision. Tabled until the next board meeting. Poet stated the committee needs to determine a decision on whether to allow corporate memberships and how they should be implemented.
- C) Katrina Relief Efforts – Reported by Poet Sisco
- 1) Barb Sikes reported. Three additional people have applied for assistance. The committee plans to disburse all donations soon.
- D) State Board Vacancies
- 1) Public Relations Representative is vacant; Chapter Presidents please ask your membership for interest in this position.
 - 2) Webmaster position vacant; Chapter Presidents please ask your membership for interest in this position.

- E) Helmet Protest - Arte Leonard absent
 - 1) Penny Harris stated, "... an individual can break the law, but if people gather together and conspire to break the law it is illegal. As a group we can not participate in this protest. It was agreed to drop the item for future consideration.
- F) Harley for Horses – Lynda Williams
 - 1) Due to time constraints and the director's schedule, it was decided to plan the event nearer the original spring date. Possible dates were discussed in order to avoid conflict with other events; further research is needed.
- G) Fall Fling – Wolf Peterson
 - 1) Cabins at the Tickfaw State Campground are not open; open discussion of where to hold the November State Board Meeting, Wolf Peterson motioned, "We hold the November meeting at Jack Mills and Carol McCarthy's home in Ponchatoula"; Cut-Thru Crawford seconded. Discussion: Plenty of room for sleep over or camping on grounds. Vote: Unanimous.
 - 2) There is not enough time to plan an event for this fall. Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents are in charge of putting together a state event planned for the fall of next year.
- H) Robin's Ride – Emilie Carroll
 - 1) Robin's ride report is in the Bayou Bikin' News. She came back to town in late October and has raised about \$5,000 to date. Any donations are appreciated.
- I) Magnolia School Toy Run – Kinky Kathy Gonzales
 - 1) Nomination and election of Mr. and Mrs. Clause:
 - Greg and Vicki Miller: 3, Gary and Ruthie French: 0, Pat Nerney and Lynda Williams: 2
 - 2) Amazon McCarthy reported the sleigh is repaired and decorated.
 - 3) "Pim Pop and the Prozacs" will play at the Magnolia School Toy Run free of charge.
 - 4) Client letters are expected soon; Big 5 and NE Chapters will participate in their local toy runs.
- J) Membership Increase thru Dealerships – Cut-Thru Crawford and Kinky Kathy Gonzales
 - 1) Cut-Thru approached several dealerships and found no interest; issue dropped.
- K) Iron Eagle – Wolf Peterson and Carol McCarthy
 - 1) ABATE will conduct the run and games and all volunteers are covered. Gator Temento will be in touch with all chapter presidents to finalize responsibilities.
- L) Share the Road Program – Steve Schwarer, Motorcycle Awareness Program Coordinator
 - 1) This program has been in the works for many years. It is now renamed the "Motorcycle Awareness Program" (MAP) to be line with ABATE programs in other states.
 - 2) What the MAP program does is a Share the Road presentation to driver's education classes in area schools. The first presentation was September 20 at Ehret High School in Marrero to a class of 150 students and it went over very well. The driver education instructor was well prepared for us with a microphone and television/video. The students were fantastic, very responsive, and participated in the program. Very encouraged that this program will be successful. The lead administrator of Jefferson Parish drivers education programs, Ms. Deborah Troy was present and pleased; she has agreed to place the "Look Twice, Save a Life" bumper stickers on all the drivers education cars.
 - 3) The program includes a portion called "The Sunny Day Drive" where an imaginary drive in the country turns bad as the driver hits a motorcyclist. Displayed are large posters of everyday riders which are flipped by assistants to show newspaper articles of crashes and photos of motorcycle collisions.
 - 4) Instructor expenses for the program have run around \$600 for the initial program which was funded personally. This included supplies for presentation: foam board, photo reproduction, easels, art portfolio, bumper stickers, and video. The instructors can share these posters but logistics may make this hard to do. Reimbursement for these props may come from the SAFETEA-LU funds the state is awaiting. At this time Steve is not seeking reimbursement from ABATE.
 - 5) We plan to present this program in as many driver education classes as possible. Once this is accomplished, we would like to present to adult groups; clubs, organizations, businesses. Anyone who has or finds a school contact please give that information to Steve. All meetings or invitations to get this program in a school or school system should be attended by Steve, as he is controlling the program. Steve will come to any chapter that has volunteers interested in the program.
 - 6) An instructor packet will be given to anyone interested and all are invited to attend the class at Bonnabel High School this Monday. Afterwards we can meet to discuss the presentation. We plan to distribute a DVD of the presentation along with the packet to assist with presentation. If an instructor does not meet guidelines and is not effective they will not be a presenter.

Instructors do not require a background check as it is only a one hour presentation and it is under the supervision of the teacher of the class at all times.

- 7) Anyone who rides a motorcycle to this presentation will wear: over the ankle boots, long pants, long sleeve shirt or jacket, a DOT helmet, eye protection or windshield, gloves. This is not negotiable. We are asking these students to be safe drivers so we can not present ourselves as unsafe riders.

V. New Business

- A) "Mert" Smiley 2007 Legislation – Poet Sisco
 - 1) At the upcoming meeting this September 26 with Col. Champagne, Rep. Smiley is expected to suggest he will propose legislation next year making it mandatory to take a motorcycle safety course prior to obtaining a motorcycle license endorsement. This would only apply to persons who do not already have an endorsement. Persons who want to obtain this endorsement will pay for this course. Smiley believes the State Run MSF Basic Motorcycle Safety Class and private schools have enough courses to meet the demand, and that the cost of the private decrease as availability and competition increase. The private courses are considerably more expensive than the state course. The private courses will reap money for those businesses and this does nothing for the state program where fees go back to the program.
 - 2) Discussion ensued that unless the State course is available to everyone, it should not be mandatory class as the cost for a private course is so much more. It could be just another deterrent for a rider to be properly endorsed and insured. In Indiana there is a law that a person must take the ABATE (MSF sanctioned) safety class prior to receiving an endorsement and they have thousands of ABATE members. The state course availability is lacking funding, instructors, equipment, and most importantly ranges where the course can be presented. The ABATE state board has already voted to support legislation to further fund the current state program with proposed legislation by adding 25 cents to vehicle license plates. Now the onus of payment will be on the future motorcycle rider.
 - 3) At this time members of the state board agreed, this year, to oppose legislation that mandates a motorcycle safety course in order to obtain a motorcycle endorsement.
 - 4) Smiley will not agree to present legislation adding the license plate fee as he has signed an agreement with other republicans to not support any increase in taxes next year. Poet will be in touch with Rep. Gary Smith to see if he will present this legislation.
 - 5) No one had any other legislation they wanted to pursue next year.
- B) Membership Price Reduction – Wolf Peterson
 - 1) Gator Temento would like ABATE to offer a "half-price" membership special at the upcoming Iron Eagle Rally. The reduction would be offset by proceeds from the poker run and bike games. This would be available for new memberships purchased and paid for at the event.
- C) Pop's Park – tabled due to lack of time
- D) Share the Road Signs – tabled due to lack of time
- E) State Board Meeting Minutes Approval Process
 - 1) Please approve the minutes as quickly as possible. Suggestion was to add a flag to the email with a deadline.

VI. Other Business

- A) Nominations:
 - 1) State Board Treasurer: Pat Malbrough
 - 2) State Board Vice-President: Sharon "Kinky Kathy" Gonzales
- B) Open floor for any other discussion – none offered.
- C) Next meeting November 11, 2006, Noon; Jack Mills and Amazon McCarthy's home, Ponchatoula
- D) Motion to adjourn by Francis Miller; seconded by Wolf Peterson; time 2:36 PM.

Executive Secretary: Lynda Williams

Executive President: James "Poet" Sisco