

- G) Legislative Report - Reported by Poet Sisco
 - 1) Federal; S616 (HIPPA) and HR1076 (sister bill to S616) closes the loophole that allows denial of health insurance coverage for injuries sustained while participating in certain recreational activities. There is no new action to report. We need to contact our legislators to push for this bill.
 - 2) National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) appears to be getting ready to petition Congress to pass a nationwide helmet law again. We should watch what is going on with this and be ready to act if this comes about. Col. James Champagne believes in this.
- H) LA Motorcyclist Safety and Awareness Committee (LMSAC) – Poet Sisco
 - 1) The last meeting discussed the past August Louisiana Motorcyclist Safety Summit and how it can be improved next year. They discussed the possibility of a nationwide helmet law. The Committee decided to work at changing control of the State Motorcycle Education Program from the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to the LA Dept of Transportation. They and Col. Champagne will work toward this endeavor.
- I) Public Relations Report – Emilie Carroll absent, no report
- J) Motorcycle Awareness Program (MAP) – Charlie Toth, Assistant MAP Coordinator reported
 - 1) We will be presenting at two Jefferson Parish Driver Ed classes this upcoming week and expect to see about 300 students. The subcommittee is revising the MAP program to a power point presentation so it comes off a little more professional and consistent. We met a few weeks ago and viewed three draft power point presentations. The program is about 85% complete. Last Sunday we met at Zephyr Stadium in Metairie and took pictures to use in the truck part of the presentation. We hope to have a program ready for review in two to three weeks. Hopefully the program will be ready to roll out for the November classes.
 - 2) The MAP webpage needs to be updated. Charlie will get with the webmaster.
 - 3) A grant has been secured for this year for conducting the classes and purchase the equipment needed to present the power point presentation. We would like to have at least two kits to present the class. Discussion included the Map Coordinator's laptop and use.
- K) Chapter Reports
 - 1) Big 5, Trey Leake: 54 members. December 29th they plan a Christmas/New Years Party.
 - 2) GNO/River Parishes, Francis Miller: 164 members, 77 lifers. Bike nights are running smoothly and we average two to three new members each month. Members recently participated in the Red Knights 911 Poker Run. Kinky Kathy is busy coordinating and promoting the 26th Annual Toy Run. Thanks to Charlie Toth for coordinating the MAP Program activities. Kim is our new Chapter Promotions Director and brings door prizes to our meetings. Upcoming events are the Blue Knights Poker Run and CMA Run in November, and our Toy Run in December.
 - 3) Northeast, Cut-Thru Crawford: 57 members. Next meeting they will elect officers for the remainder of this year as he is stepping down as President. Mike Jolly is currently nominated. Appreciate the fine article in the BBN.
 - 4) Northlake, Gregg Miller: 157 members, 9 new, 5 renew, 24 life, and 2 youth. We are busy planning several poker runs to benefit some members with needs, however, the functions are not ABATE sanctioned. Johnny Chopper event scheduled for the end of this month is cancelled so we will not be working that event. About 35 of us going to an event called Thunder Beach at the end of the month.

III. Announcements

E. T. Malbrough offered to organize a dance, similar to the benefit dance for Kinky Kathy, in order to raise funds for ABATE. We would like to have other chapters get involved. This would be similar to the "Run for your Rights" event and would be held mid-April. This is a different event than a poker run and people who don't ride can participate.

Cut-Thru Crawford is riding to Lafayette after the meeting to join the benefit for one of the two Broussard motorcyclists who were deliberately run over by an inebriated man last month. Anyone is welcome to join him there.

Blue Knights Poker Run is scheduled for November 10 in the New Orleans area.

IV. Old Business

- A) Pop's Park – Francis Miller tabled indefinitely
- B) Reimbursement Policy for Members Attending Motorcycle Related Conferences – E. T. Malbrough tabled to next meeting.
- C) Review the written report method of Officers and Trustees – Poet Sisco
 - 1) Few Officers/Trustees complied; State Secretary will send out notices to remind everyone that reports are due a minimum one week prior to the meeting. Poet will consolidate and distribute the reports as needed.

V. New Business

- A) Motorcycle Shops and Free Membership, Goal for 2007 – Gregg Miller
 - 1) Would like to see us get into every motorcycle shop in the state and offer a free membership to anybody who buys a new bike, (membership) paid for by ABATE of Louisiana. This would be a free but stipulated membership. It should be easy to get the information in the retailers financing package. Harley Davidson does this with HOG. This should automatically increase our membership; renewals may be different. Final discussion concluded Gregg should put together a plan of procedures on how to implement this for consideration at the next meeting.
- B) Ride Straight Program and Operation "Save-A-Life" – Poet Sisco
 - 1) ABATE of Colorado has a ride straight program. They have not received a grant for this program. It is an anti-drinking and riding program started by the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) and involves distribution of posters and PSA's. Currently only nine states and only one State Motorcyclist Rights Organization (SMRO) have this program in effect.
 - 2) Operation "Save-A-Life" is another program that ABATE of Colorado conducts. They have received a grant for this directly from the TEA-LU funds. The program provides classroom instruction along the same lines as our current MAP program, but also includes all driver education classes. They produce flyers and brochures promoting safe driving around motorcyclists. Poet will do the research and a committee will be formed to study and prepare for the request in order to submit in August 2008.
 - 3) Discussion ensued of the possibility of using a professional grant writer in order to obtain larger grants.
- C) Annual "Frankie" Event for Cerebral Palsy – Gregg Miller
 - 1) Gregg Miller motioned, "We create an annual ABATE sanctioned poker run in late June to benefit Frankie Vilion and Cerebral Palsy"; seconded by Jason Walters. Discussion: Date was chosen because nothing else is scheduled at that time. The run would be in honor of Frankie and some proceeds should go to him as well as the Cerebral Palsy organization. Gregg will research and put together procedures to present at the next meeting. Gregg Miller tabled the motion to the next meeting.
- D) Procedure to authorize ABATE Events – Gregg Miller
 - 1) Reviewed the policy of using the ABATE name on events. Use of the ABATE name on an event must be approved by the State Board 60 days prior to the event. Our By-laws address how proceeds from events can be used for non-members and members.
- E) ABATE Debit Card and Procedures – Poet Sisco
 - 1) The State Store Manager currently use a personal credit card for some orders and shipping as some vendors only accept credit cards. The State Treasurer has similar issue with invoices that are cumbersome to pay with checks. A debit card(s) could also be used for travel reservations, etc. Discussion included who needs a debit card and who should receive one. Controls are needed as checks are controlled with two signatures and a debit card would not have that control. It was pointed out that the procedure of requiring two signatures on checks (pre-signing checks) circumvents the control. It was determined the State Treasurer will research and present a policy for review at the next meeting.
- F) State Board Meeting Date for November
 - 1) Meeting date changed to November 3 to be held in the Northeast Chapter Monroe/West Monroe area at 10 AM. We can show support for the Northeast Chapter and invite ABATE of NW Louisiana members to attend.

VI. Other Business

- A) Nominations for Magnolia School Toy Run "Mr. and Mrs. Claus 2007": Nominations were GNO/RP members Terry and Dave "DD" Key, and Northlake members Gregg and Vicki Miller. Vote: Gregg and Vicki Miller will serve.
- B) Nominations for State Secretary 2008-2009: Jack Mills. Nominations for state secretary were closed and will be reopened at the next meeting and the vote will be taken at the end of the nominations."
- C) Nominations for State President 2008-2009: James "Poet" Sisco. Nominations for state president were closed and will be reopened at the next meeting and the vote will be taken at the end of the nominations."
- D) Open Floor to any other discussions
 - 1) Discussion of places used as stops on ABATE sanctioned poker runs: Bars, the image of drinking and riding, our involvement with the driver education classes and possible involvement in a ride straight program. We could try other places that are more family orientated such as restaurants and retail shops. It was pointed out that most of our stops at bars always have access to non-alcoholic beverages and it is difficult to ask people to stop at a convenience store for a card; it is really up to the rider/driver to determine if or how much he drinks. LAMSAC, NTSB, and the insurance industry reports are currently addressing the issue of alcohol related motorcyclist deaths and crashes. ABATE should be setting the example of not drinking and riding, and by including bar stops on our poker runs we look hypocritical and counterproductive. It was suggested we could limit the number of bars or have the last stop one which does not serve alcoholic beverages. ABATE could assume liability when we hold ride stops in bars. Gregg Miller is to set up a meeting with Chapter Presidents to discuss a possible organizational statement or policy.
 - 2) The yellow "Look Twice, Save a Life" ABATE bumper stickers reorder was discussed. Smaller stickers seem more popular and research will be done to see if they are available.
 - 3) Gator went on record stating: Our By-laws require two signatures on all checks. When one party is pre-signing checks it is a total circumvention of the control procedures and we are kidding ourselves. The rule should be changed.
- E) Next meeting November 3, 2007, 10 AM; Northeast Chapter to host in Monroe, West Monroe area.
- F) Motion to adjourn by Gregg Miller, seconded by Francis Miller, time 2:30 PM.

Executive Secretary: Lynda Williams

Executive President: James "Poet" Sisco