

LIBERTY ABATE NEWS

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2021 in the Rear View Mirrors

We made it through 2021, a year full of apprehension, challenges, and a pandemic that keeps on giving, raising the question, are we through it yet? The answer is a big maybe, almost, not yet. Covid restrictions are still impacting our work in legislative work, with the State House just now opening back up, and some things still on lock down. But through it all, we did manage to score some victories in the fight to persevere your rights, beginning with-

Trailer plates- It took over a year, but we did manage to take down those plate fees to a more reasonable 36 dollars from 118. And if you think that taking money out of the government's pocket is easy you have never worked in Springfield before! Did you know that ABATE was the only group working on this? Or that it passed unopposed in both the House and Senate? That is why membership is so important, to keep up the good fight, which, like most things, requires the funds to do so. Still only \$25!

Other victories include a bill that proposed a ban on children on motorcycles, we were able to change it- now it reads a passenger must have one foot touching a foot rest. Also a bill was passed that bans those monstrous side by sides on state funded off road parks. This is a safety issue, they are simply too big and fast to mix with kids on dirt bikes.

The push for more exposure on social media has been ongoing to raise awareness of ABATE and what we do. This Week in ABATE on Facebook has been successful in keeping you up on what is happening around the state, and is a good reminder that there is a lot going on beyond Liberty Chapter. Currently this program runs on Wednesday nights at 8 pm, you can also catch up with the reruns on Facebook and check out our YouTube channel as well. During the live broadcast you can ask a question of our team of moderators, featuring Josh "Ski" Witkowski, ABATE Legislative Coordinator and our newly hired lobbyist, along with PR coordinator Chris "2.0" Hansen.

Local events for Liberty were somewhat curtailed in the last year, but with new activities officers this year, we have a full slate of rides and events scheduled to keep you occupied. And in February we have our anniversary party, celebrating 35 years of Liberty chapter. 2021 saw a good turnout, despite the move to a new date due to covid. Let us all get out on the 19th of February and support the cause of Rider's Rights!

New Challenges- You may know that a huge infrastructure bill was passed at the Federal level. One little thing tucked away in the 2,702 pages that was signed into law was a provision that in five years a kill switch be added to all new vehicles, that will disable your car in the event of erratic driving and be accessible to law enforcement. The language is somewhat vague, does this mean your new bike will shut down if you are leaning too much in those curves? This is an issue that we will be watching.

Electric Motorcycles- In Illinois, the electric motorcycle was left out of the infrastructure bill as not being "primary" Well we don't want to be left out, because ABATE covers all riders, electric or gas powered, we don't discriminate. And like it or not, the world is changing, and electric vehicles will continue to increase. We all want