

LIBERTY ABATE NEWS

MARCH 2021

By Joel Wannemacher State Board/Legislative officer Liberty Chapter and AbatePac trustee

Hello Liberty! March is here, one month closer to Spring! Although with the warm days we have had lately, some brave souls are out already on their bikes, braving the brisk air to get in a ride. Remember to check your bike carefully when shaking off the winter slumber and always ride safe. Know yourself and know your machine, for both may need some maintenance before hitting the road.

Happenings- A group from Liberty attended the Embrass Valley anniversary party in Tuscola recently, supporting our Brothers to the north. A good time with chili cook off and broomstick pool. We also signed up two new members.

Another recent event was State Seminar in Springfield. Although the turnout was reduced this year due to schedule changes and other factors, we did pull it off and had a successful event, with a large number of first timers in attendance. The coffers of StatePAC and ABATEpac were refilled by the fundraising auctions so the work of ABATE of Illinois can continue, which brings us to...

What is ABATE, Who are we? Why Join? One thing we might be confused with is a charity, we are not. Sure, there are charity's we support and sponsor charitable works, such as poker runs to help somebody in need. But, that is not who we are. And yes, we do have events so you can hang out with and ride with fellow bikers. But that is not who we are. We are a State Motorcycle Rights Organization, an SMRO. We are there advocating for you, the Biker. We don't care if you are on a domestic bike, metric cruiser, two wheels or three, on the road or off, ABATE is there watching your back. ABATE started with the idea that as adults, we can decide what to wear while pursuing our idea of happiness, cruising the highways of our great country. That focus on freedom of the road is our founding message, and still continues today. The freedoms every Biker in Illinois enjoys are not just handed to you, **you are not entitled to freedom.** Face the fact that Freedom is hard, it is precious, and without constant vigilance, transitory. ABATE has fought for you the right to wear what you want, to ride where you want, to get your bike fixed where you chose. ABATE has fought tax increases, license fee increases, mandates to push E-15 gasoline on you, fought for fairness to be represented when new laws (or lack of) concerning automated vehicles running on our roads without proper testing. The list of our accomplishments would fill many pages. But, we need you, the Bikers of Illinois to support us in this mission. That is why we are asking for your support, renew your membership, see someone who rides, give he or she an application, it contains some good information on what we do and who we are.

Social Media Did you know that ABATE has a YouTube Channel? Along with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, we are expanding into social media to enhance our presence, this 21st century method of communications is expected to bring the message of ABATE to a wider and until now, a somewhat neglected audience, the younger rider. Did you know that the only segment of motorcycle sales seeing an increase is the 600 cc and under class? How do we reach these riders and show them the value of an ABATE

membership? The hope is that increased use of social media will get our message of freedom of the road out to a wider audience. Please do your part, have a kid show you the YouTube and how to subscribe to the ABATE channel. Also tune in to Facebook and watch This Week in ABATE on the first Tuesday of the month and then every Wednesday, at 7pm brought to you by Josh "Ski" Witkowsky and Chris "2.0" Hansen.

Legislative- We are still trying to knock down those license fees back to the \$18 for small (under 3000lb) trailers. This is House Bill 36. We have a lot of bipartisan support on this one and will try, again, to save some money to those with single axle trailers. Other bills are HB656, passengers must have one foot on a peg to ride. This came about after a bill to ban children on motorcycles was modified, after negotiations with ABATE, that as long as you can touch one foot on the pegs, then it's ok to ride. Why only one? Because out there somewhere is a one legged kid who wants to take a ride on the back of a bike. Can't exclude someone because of a disability.

Did you know that there are nearly 4000 bills introduced in any given session of the Illinois General Assembly? This will give you a hint about the magnitude of the task of keeping track of all that will affect you, the rider. It would be very easy to introduce a bill that some politico will say "Look at me, I am protecting YOU" and of course mandating that you not ride here, or you should wear this, or some other nonsense. ABATE is there keeping watch.

Upcoming events-Anniversary Party! We have not forgotten to celebrate the 34 years of Liberty! On April 10th at the Moose in Mattoon come on out for food, music, and help us raise some money through our live and silent auctions and we will have several raffles going on. Without your support there will be no Liberty, so come on out and spend an hour or the evening.

Before that happens, on March 27th, there will be a bags tournament, or maybe you prefer cornhole tournament, at the Roadhouse beginning at noon. After that stay and enjoy music by Jane Doe.

On April 11th we will have our monthly meeting at the Moose.

Legislative day is Wednesday April 14th. This annual event in Springfield is a chance to meet your representatives at a reception at the State House Inn. Although we are limited this year due to restrictions of groups entering the capitol, we will still be inviting the entire House and Senate to our event. Come on over, the more there the bigger impact we can have.

Freedom Rally Mark your calender's now for the weekend of April 30th to May 2 for our annual Freedom rally. This year it is expanding to the Christian county fairgrounds in Taylorville, with camping and events. On Sunday there will be a mass ride to the Capitol in Springfield. Can we break 1000 bikes? Come out and join in.

To see the latest news, schedule updates, pictures from events, go to Libertyabate.org, or Liberty ABATE on Facebook. Renew online through Libertyabate.org or abate-il.org. By mail-PO box 1502 Mattoon IL 61938 In person at our monthly meeting or at any event. You can also contact any officer.

"The price of Liberty is eternal vigilance" Thomas

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