

ABATE of Illinois Board of Directors Meeting – Oct, 2005

These minutes approved on Dec 17, 2005

ABATE of Illinois - Office

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State Secretary - Linda Pasetti-Olson

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Board of Directors - Regular Bi-Monthly Business Meeting – Oct. 2005

Meeting Location – Brookens Auditorium
University of Illinois at Springfield, One University Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62703

Executive Board Members Present

1. State Coord -Greg 'Sidecar' Wagner
2. Ass't State Coord.- Jim 'Legs' Korte
3. Secretary - Linda Pasetti-Olson
4. Treasurer - Julie Bacon
5. Office Manager - Pauli Ward
6. Legislative Coord - Cheryl Pearre
7. Safety & Ed Coord-Paulette Pinkham
8. Activities Coord -Carl Shamhart
9. Newsletter Coord -Ray Heck
10. Public Relations Coord - Deb King
11. NE Region Coord -Ed Domine
12. NW Region Co-Coord - Todd 'Turk' Nichols & Roger Larson

13. EC Region Coord - Sharilyn Kibler-Russell
14. WC Region Coord - Mike Straker
15. SE Region Co-Coord - Rick 'Doc' Jones
16. SW Region Coord-Bob Meyers

Executive Board Members Absent

1. Products Coord -Renee Rumble
2. Bike Raffle Coord - Gus Miller (in Joliet with raffle bike)

Chapters Present

1. Apple Creek
2. Arrowhead Valley
3. Backroads
4. Black Diamond-left at 4:20 PM
5. Blackhawk
6. Central
7. Chicago
8. Children of the Corn
9. Crossroads
10. Dukane
11. Eastern Illinois.
12. Flatlanders
13. Ford Co.
14. Franklin Co
15. Freebird

16. Freedom by Choice
17. Freedom Riders
18. Freedom Valley
19. Freeport
20. Fulton Co.
21. Great River
22. Heart of Illinois
23. Heartland
24. Iron Riders
25. Jasper Co.-left at 3:40 PM
26. Kishwaukee Valley
27. Liberty
28. Lincoln Land
29. Midstate
30. Northern
31. NW Suburban
32. Old River

33. Open Roads
34. Peo-Taz
35. Piasa-Gateway
36. Prairieland
37. Shawnee Hills
38. Shoal Creek
39. So. Suburban
40. So. DuPage
41. So. Freedom
42. So. Illinois
43. St. Clair Co.
44. Starved Rock
45. Tri-County
46. ThunderRock
47. Twin Rivers-left at 3:41 PM
48. Westgate
49. Will County

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Chapters Absent

BOG	Heritage Trail	Lamoine Valley	Union Jack
Crawford Co	Hubbard Trail	Pike Co.	Wabash Valley
Embarras Valley	Illinois River	Salt Creek	Wayne Co.

Note - All references to the Executive Board herein, will be as 'E Board', and all references to the State Board of Directors, will be as 'BOD'. Motions to accept minutes, reports and adjournment are not numbered.

Call to Order

State Coordinator Greg ‘Sidecar’ Wagner opened the meeting to order at 1:10 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Aug 2005 Minutes

- **Products Review Report** – Peo-Taz motioned to remove ‘requiring many hours monthly of bookwork with minimal assistance and cooperation provided to her.
- Absolutely NO evidence of theft or wrongdoing, by either the Products Coordinator or the State Coordinator, has been found. It is the conclusion of this report that the allegations made were premature, completely unfounded, and were made without any supporting evidence.’

And the complete section -

Rumors & Allegations – ‘Meeting chair was passed to Assistant State Coord Jim ‘Legs’ Korte. State Coord. Greg ‘Sidecar’ Wagner addressed the State Legislative Assistant about rumors and allegations he related to his chapter’s board. Since the allegations were without proof and unfounded, they should not have been reported or used as a basis to decide future support of E Board members. State Coord also addressed the State Legislative Coord as she had made the same accusations in her conversations.

Also discussed was an incident that occurred at the State Party where an effigy had been created and was hung outside a camper by the state Treasurer.

Discussion ensued and it was suggested by the BOD that all involved apologize in the state newsletter for their actions’, **Heart of Illinois seconded.**

Discussion ensued on the objection. The events had taken place as described, but it was argued that they were not related to motorcycle rights and appeared to be a personal attack on board members. The need for accountability of actions by E Board members was discussed, as was the reasoning behind presenting those issues in an open BOD meeting. Question was called and the State Secretary read the sections referenced. **Motion was carried with 27 chapters agreeing and 17 opposing.**

Freeport moved to approve the Aug minutes as amended. Kishwaukee Valley seconded, and the motion was carried with opposition by Thunder Rock and Arrowhead Valley.

Old Business

2006 E Board Election

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State Coordinator, Greg ‘Sidecar’ Wagner, noted that he has removed his nomination from the 2006 election. Candidates for opposed positions introduced themselves to the board, including Julie Bacon / Paul Truax for Treasurer, Deb King / Kristin Koller for Public Relations, and Rick ‘Doc’ Jones for SE Region Coord.

2006 State Budget

Discussion was started on the E Board budget proposal and letter the State Treasurer sent to BOD reps in September. Lincoln Land read a prepared statement (included with these minutes), and noted that they felt proper backup information had not been supplied to evaluate the budget. Specifically lacking per his letter – Itemization of ‘Professional Fees’, ‘Un-Budgeted Funds’, and ‘Payroll’ expenses. He also requested an appendix of budget terms used in the report, and five or more years of state expenses and income. **Lincoln Land motioned to send the budget back to the E Board for further revisions. Black Diamond seconded.** Discussion ensued on the motion and how state expenses would be met after the state’s fiscal year ended on Oct 31, if a state budget was not approved. **Agreeing were ThunderRock, Chicago, Flatlanders, So. Freedom, Jasper Co, Black Diamond, Freebird, Great River, Old River, Prairieland, Apple Creek, Freedom Valley, Franklin Co, Freeport, Heart of Illinois, Lincoln Land, Open Roads, South Suburban, Midstate, Kishwaukee Valley, Shawnee Hills, Iron Riders, NW Suburban, Crossroads, Tri-County, Will Co, Ford Co, Piasa-Gateway, Heartland, Shoal Creek and St Clair Co. Opposing were Freedom by Choice, Freedom Riders, Starved Rock, Northern Illinois, Children of the Corn, Twin Rivers, Arrowhead Valley, Liberty, Blackhawk, Central, Eastern, Southern Illinois, So DuPage and Dukane. Motion was carried with 31 chapters agreeing and 14 opposing. # B2005-052** Further discussion ensued and the Legislative Coord was asked to expand on 2005 legislative expenses. She noted the law suit ABATE filed against Gov. Blogavitch, which has been handled by our Legal Services without charge to ABATE, noise reminder bumper stickers, and monies she has transferred from that budget to State PAC for 2006 voters guides. During a campaign year, \$10,000 extra is typically added for expenses, but that will not be needed in 2006. Two Washington trips were made this year. Note was made that some E Board Coordinators had itemized their 2006 budget expenses, but that information was not supplied to the BOD. Treasurer stated that some expenses are paid from different categories from year to year, so comparing the costs is not always accurate, and for the last five years, expenses have not come from the same categories. She suggested that at the end of the next fiscal year a decision could be made, to decide where money needed for 2006 expenses would come from. Discussion returned to the composition of the current budget form, that it is hard to read and understand, and that expenses were not clearly defined. Piasa-Gateway issued a chapter challenge for chapter donations to balance the budget. **Thunder Rock motioned that operating expenses to run the organization until the Dec. BOD meeting be taken out of savings. NW Suburban seconded, but both chapters later rescinded that motion. # B2005-053**

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Fulton Co motioned to give the E Board the power to operate financially using funds in the ABATE checking account, for the next two months, until the Dec BOD meeting, and that the E Board bring in a balanced budget at that meeting. South Suburban seconded, and the motion was carried with Blackhawk opposing. # B2004-054 Note was made again that the budget process needs to be revamped so chapters can feel more comfortable, understand the budget better, and feel less frustrated when they vote on approval.

Legal Services Contract

Renewal of the Legal Services contract will be voted on annually at the Dec BOD meetings. Contract paperwork must be filed in February with the state. Current Legal Services administrator is Rod Taylor.

Under 21 Attendance at Events

Discussion of attendance at ABATE events by members under 21 will take place in December and Board Reps should be ready to give their chapters' views. A recent BOD vote on state newsletter ads for events listed as "Must be Over 21 to Attend" was addressed, but this discussion will consider rules for event attendance.

Black Diamond motioned to close Old Business. Fulton Co seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

MRF Pledge for 2006

During the Sept. E Board meeting a motion was made and passed, *"that \$5,000 be pledged to the MRF at the Meeting of the Minds next week"* [# E2005-044] At that event, a chapter challenge was made that chapters match that amount and two ABATE of Illinois, Inc. chapters made donations of \$5,000 each.

AMA Dist 17 Rep

Dick 'Heavy' Carr will not fill this position again next year. **Southern DuPage motioned to recommend Jim Viverito for AMA Dist 17 Rep., and NW Suburban seconded. No other recommendations were offered, and the motion carried with Heart of Illinois opposing. # B2005-055** 'Heavy' will take the BOD recommendation to the AMA board meeting next Sat for their approval. This is a full voting member on the AMA board.

Rich Neb Award

Nominations for this award must be made in writing, to the State Office, by Dec 1 and the award is given at the seminar in February. See the October state newsletter for details.

2006 Board Meeting Dates

Secretary announced proposed BOD meeting dates for 2006 and discussion ensued on the August meeting, when races are held in Peoria. **Freeport**

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motioned to change the August BOD meeting to one week later, Heart of Illinois seconded. # B2005-056. After discussion, Lincoln Land motioned and Freeport seconded, to table the vote on changing the Aug BOD date, until the Grand Nationals dates are set. Motion was carried,

Secretary announced that the auditorium rent for bi-monthly BOD meetings was being raised to \$405 after December 2005, from the current charge of \$310.

The college has agreed to give us a \$70 discount until July of 2006. Secretary is researching several other meeting locations in Springfield, and suggestions are welcomed.

Funerals

A member from NW Suburban spoke on a project they would like to see implemented that includes an ABATE ‘Honor Guard’ who would attend funerals of ABATE members around the state, and a patch that would be presented to family members. **Freeport motioned to postpone discussion of forming an ABATE ‘Honor Guard’ to attend funerals of ABATE members, until a 2006 budget has been approved. Kishwaukee Valley seconded, and the motion was carried without opposition. # B2005-057**

Board was asked to vote on E Board positions and return their ballots to the Secretary. Neal Toepfer, BOD Rep from Freeport, and Pauli Ward Office Manager were asked to assist with counting.

Thunder Rock motioned to close New Business. Liberty seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Break at 2:27 PM - 3:04 PM

E Board Election Results

State Coordinator – Jim ‘Legs’ Korte

Ass’t State Coordinator – Ed Domine

Secretary – Linda Pasetti-Olson

Treasurer – Julie Bacon

Legislative Coordinator – Dan Harper

Bike Raffle Coordinator – Gus Miller

Safety & Education Coordinator – Paulette Pinkham

Activities Coordinator – Carl Shamhart

Newsletter Coordinator – Ray Heck

Public Relations Coordinator – Deb King

NE Region Co-Coordinators – Rick ‘RO’ Olson & Mike Ryan

NW Region Co-Coordinators – Todd ‘Turk’ Nichols & Roger Larson

EC Region Co-Coordinators – Sharilyn Kibler-Russell & Jeff Marsh

WC Region Co-Coordinator – Steve ‘Rat’ Surratt & Rodney Stage

SE Region Coordinator – Rick ‘Doc’ Jones

SW Region Coordinator – Bob Meyers

No candidates for Products Coordinator ran and the position was left vacant.

E Board Officer Reports

Approved-12/17/05

Attested-Linda Pasetti-Olson - State Secretary

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Legislative Coordinator

Cheryl Pearre distributed a packet of information to BOD members, containing local, state, federal details, etc, (all included with attachments).

Locally - Winnebago Co has tried to implement another ATV ban, but 3 area local chapters were successful in stopping it.

Illinois state fair turned away motorcyclists this year and a meeting is being planned with the fair director to find out why.

Veto session will be Oct 25-27 and Nov 2-4. Please call your State Senator and ask to have HB934 (Seizure of Motorcycles ordinance) heard and to vote yes on it.

Federally - TEA was passed, with \$25 million set aside for cycle rider training programs, and a motorcycle advisory committee that was created to advise the Federal Highway Administration on motorcycle issues. This panel will include participation by the AMA, the MRF, and other motorcycle groups. In addition, a federally mandated helmet effort was stopped.

HIPAA bills to address insurance discrimination, are still being worked on, but will require much effort and will not be changed quickly.

With campaigns starting, chapters are asked to refrain from making endorsement until the voter's guide is made available, and 2,000 more 'Noise Reduction' bumper stickers were printed and distributed to chapters today.

\$5,000 was moved from the Legislative budget to the State PAC funds, to be used for 2006 voter guides, and Dan Harper now has possession of all legislative files and equipment.

2006 Legislative agenda recommendations were discussed. Chapters will have the option to vote on them at the December BOD. Cheryl reminded everyone that local State's Attorneys have sole authority to prosecute drivers involved in accidents. Chapters should contact the State's Attorney office when they have concerns about charges in motorcycle accidents.

The \$25,000 punitive damage bill will be reintroduced if Chicago, or other cites, try to implement recent motorcycle issues. Until then, it will stay dormant.

Seizure bill, if not passed in this veto session, should be our top priority next year. Motorcycle discrimination will continue to be an issue, but its' priority may change depending on the state legislature atmosphere next year.

Federal recommendations were also included.

FED PAC

Mike 'Boz' Kerr reported for the FEDPAC. (A FEDPAC board report is included with minute attachments.) Pactober Fest was held in the NE Region and about \$4, 500 was raised. FEDPAC treasury is currently about \$24,700. A spring raffle will be held again next year, and a FEDPAC workshop will be offered at the 2006 state seminar.

FEDPAC members did not make candidate endorsements in the past, but in order to comply federally, in the future, FEDPAC members will have final candidate approval in the voter's guide. FEDPAC programs are difficult to run, and ABATE FEDPAC is one of the very few to operate successful. He recommends the PAC budget not be cut further, as they will need operating funds to keep the PAC working at this level.

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State ABATE PAC

Dan Harper started the report on State PAC activities. **Fulton Co. motioned to accept Dan Harpers resignation as State PAC chairman, due to his election as State Legislative Coordinator and to elect Mary Burgett as the new State PAC chair and Neal Toepfer as the new State PAC Treasurer. Franklin Co seconded, and the motion was carried without opposition. # B2005-058** Mary Burgett continued the PAC report with a current balance of \$10,142 and she thanked several chapters for their recent donations. Local requests for political fundraiser events should be sent to her or to the committee.

Safety and Education

Paulette Pinkham reported safety and awareness presentation numbers. On Oct 24th-26th she will take part in a state safety assessment panel presentation.

At the Meeting of the Minds event, the ABATE safety video was presented and offered for sale to other states. Orders are also being taken with an order letter, available on the state website. Also at that event, Terri Stobbs discussed statistics currently being used by NHTSA that show 13 states without any recorded 'motorcycle miles' traveled, including Illinois. Paulette quoted several other motorcycle statistics she had found. Alcohol impaired riding was also discussed as a serious problem that will be monitored closely in the future by law enforcement agencies.

Checks for the EMT training program, administered by Bob Kail from Open Roads chapter should be sent to the state office with a notation on the check.

Newsletter

Ray Heck asked that new E Board officers get their contact information to him for the newsletter. Chapter meeting date changes should also be sent to him, so the newsletter calendar can be kept current.

Products

Renee Rumble was absent and sent no report.

Secretary

Linda Pasetti-Olson had nothing further to report.

Office Manager

Pauli Ward stated that Nita Netsley, stepdaughter of Terry Hopkins, won the \$2,000 ABATE scholarship contest this year.

Chapters needing liquor liability insurance should call the state office and not the insurance company directly. Membership recruiter patches have been backordered, but should be available soon. Membership totals are down and renewals are slow.

PR Coord

Coord. Deb King distributed generic tri-folds that chapters could use for recruitment or informational purposes and suggested stapling a membership application inside (tri-fold and report attached). New chapter PR people should contact Deb.

She is still working on large peel off stickers for trailers and truck backs and will draw names in Dec for the remaining 5'x7' ABATE posters she has been storing.

Treasurer

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Chapter 990 tax information will be due soon, please make sure chapter Treasurer contacts are up to date at the state office. State budget will be addressed again in November. The 990's return deadline is Jan 22, at the state seminar. Julie will present a class at the state seminar on 'How to do the 990's'

Activities Coord.

Carl Shamhart reported that the Springfield and Collinsville swap meets flyers are available (Feb 19 and April 2, 2006). State party will be the weekend after Father's Day this year. Freedom Rally will be May 7th.

Bike Raffle Coordinator

Gus Miller was absent due to his attendance at a Joliet car show, selling bike raffle tickets. 1st prize is a Harley Davidson Heritage Standard, 2nd prize is a Vespa scooter (donated thru member Dan Kay), and 3rd prize is a Polaris Predator. Top seller of bike raffle tickets again this year was South Suburban chapter, with \$7,850 of sales.

Ass't State Coord

The six license plate design received this year will all be used, either next year or in future years.

Regional Reports

NE Region

Ed Domine thanked all chapters who donated to the FEDPAC NE Region fundraiser PAC-Tober Fest, on Oct 8th. 2006 State seminar will be held on Jan 21 & 22 at the Northfield Inn in Springfield. Sponsors for the seminar are needed. Corporate sponsors can purchase from a business card size ad up to a large banner.

NW Region

Todd 'Turk; Nichols announced the NW Region will hold a chili cook off, sometime in February.

EC Region

Sharilyn Kibler-Russell thanked the chapters for this year's activities

WC Region

Mike Straker thanked the chapters, and welcomed incoming WC Region Co-ordinators Steve 'Rat' Surratt and Rodney Stage.

SE Region

Rick 'Doc' Jones announced a region meeting for Oct 30, 1 PM at Coyotes, and plans to visit all chapters in the SE Region this winter.

SW Region

Bob Myers announced the region Marble Run has finished. He suggests chapters look at raising state income to balance the budget instead of cutting expenses

Panel & Committee Reports

AMA Dist #17 Rep.

Dick 'Heavy' Carr had no report. Only 4 meeting per year are held and they met last month, mainly discussing the AMA congress in Tennessee. Next meeting is the coming Sat and he will submit Jim Viverito's resume.

MRF Rep

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Jim ‘Legs’ Korte noted that sustaining members need to check if their membership is being reported correctly in the MRF paper and website. Due to changes in employees, some names are missing. Contact him for more information. Heartland Steam, a MRF fundraiser and seminar will be hosted by ABATE of Illinois, Inc this year and held in Peoria on April 28 & 29. Flyers are available.

DNR

Terry Hopkins was not present and sent no report.

Off Road Panel

Chair Jim Viverito had no report

ByLaw Review

One bylaw change for honorary memberships was submitted and given to Ed Domine, committee chair. The committee will consider the proposal and their recommendation will be sent to all chapters within 30 days. At the December BOD meeting the chapters will vote to accept or reject the change.

Discussion ensued on Rich Neb and whether his membership had been continued as the BOD voted several years ago. It was not clear if Piasa-Gateway chapter had continued that membership or if the state was to renew it.

Conservation Congress

Terry Hopkins had no report, as Conservation Congress is not in session.

Strategic Planning

Kristin Koller reported a telephone conference had been held last week and a one, three and five-year plans were being drafted for each department in the organization. Suggestions are still being accepted from the membership, and their project is scheduled for board presentation and approval by next February. A Strategic Planning workshop is planned for the seminar.

Motion to accept all reports was made, seconded, and carried without opposition.

As per the June BOD vote, Activities Coordinator Carl Shamhart gave a book of information to Rodney Stage, incoming WC Region Co-Coord for use with future swap meets in that region.

Since no 2006 Products Coord. was elected, the inventory will be put in storage and the online store has been shut down.

4:39 PM - The meeting was motioned and seconded to adjourn, and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

Oct Attachments (some distributed at the meeting)

Legislative Packet

Budget Notes-Lincoln Land

FEDPAC Report

State Membership Count (enclosed with hard copies)

Treasurer report (enclosed with hard copies)

PR Coord Report & Trifold

Strategic Planning Panel Report

Next BOD meeting is scheduled for Dec 11, 2005 at 1 PM

Approved-12/17/05

Attested-Linda Pasetti-Olson - State Secretary

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Next E Board meeting scheduled for Nov 20th at 10 AM, Ramada Limited in Springfield

BOD Reps are advised to call the state office answering machine for information on meeting cancellations. Weather disturbances anywhere in the state could impact the meetings. Message will be updated by 6 AM on the day of the meeting, anytime a board meeting is being cancelled.

Note – All 2005 BOD meetings will be held at Brookens Auditorium, U of I campus in Springfield, with the E Board meeting preceding at 10 AM.