

### **Executive Board meeting September 20, 2014**

VFW Post 755 Springfield, Il

A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc. Office

311 E. Main, Ste 418

Galesburg, Il 61401

Kat Conner- State Secretary

P.O. Box 53

Ohio, Il 61349

#### **Executive board present:**

1. State Coordinator- Ryan Hubbard
2. Asst Coordinator- Scott Gerke
3. Secretary- Kat Conner
4. Treasurer- Julie Bacon
5. Legislative- Bob Myers
6. Products- Julee Thurman
7. Newsletter- Carla Enburg
8. Public Relations- Shirley "Swirl" Lacock
9. Office Manager- Pauli Ward
10. NE Region- John Block (11:15)
11. EC Region- Jim Hamilton (10:55)
12. NW Region- Dennis "Cleaver" Yeager
13. SW Region- Jim "Legs" Korte
14. WC Region- Don Boland

#### **Executive board absent:**

1. Safety & Education- Violet "Shy Vi" Roberts (work)
2. Bike Raffle- Howard Nation (at event)
3. Activities- Barb Fitzpatrick (family)
4. NE Region- Ray Heck
5. SE Region- Ted Zackro
6. Kevin "Cap: Goudschaal(family)
7. SE Region- Mick Eddington

#### **Guests present:**

1. Pam Boland- Central

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 am with Ryan Hubbard leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion by Scott Gerke, Shirley "Swirl" Lacock 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the August minutes with corrections, no discussion, motion carried.** Correction included correct date in header, remove the last phrase from the treasurer's report.

**State Coordinator:** Ryan will talk about the Ride Smart program later today. He has heard that Fulton County is probably going to fold. Jim Hamilton, Shirley "Swirl" Lacock and Ryan are going to attend the meeting with Ford County on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Assistant State Coordinator:** Scott gave the dates again for the seminar; January 16 & 17. He is working with a new contact at the Ramada. Registration forms will be in the October state paper. Pauli Ward asked about raising the seminar fees. The money currently only covers the cost of the banquet. Scott thought that next year would be the time to do so as the forms are already being published. Discussion was held as the purpose of the seminar- information versus money making. We have actually been in the black for the last couple of years. We could get more sponsors and raise the late registration fee. People will be restricted to reserving only two rooms and rooms have to be taken for both nights.

**Office Manager:** Pauli had some questions for the board. Members have been asking about a price quote for a new video and she wondered if Violet had received them yet. She expressed her concern about a possible conflict of interest in the upcoming elections. Dennis Yeager will get some information about that this weekend. Jim "Legs" Korte feels it would be best if the chapters who made the

nomination withdrew it if there is a conflict. A donation of \$1000.00 was made for a sound system earlier this year; has anything been done? After some discussion it was decided that Activities would be the area it would be used most in and so Barb Fitzpatrick should be in on the purchase. Jim Hamilton has a contact and he will speak to Barb about getting the system. Ryan Hubbard has offered to see that a podium be made for our use. The state office will be closed September 24-October 3. The five year lease on the Bondi building office will soon be due and Pauli plans to renew it. How are we going to pay for the raffle bike truck? Julie explained what the plan had been and where we are financially.

**Legislative:** Bob, John "Hunter John" Harris, and Todd Vandermyde met with the DNR, who is supporting us and with the Sierra Club, who are opposing our proposed off road park. Todd did a very good job of explaining how it will happen and why. At the GHSA conference there was no big push for helmets. They are finally realizing we are working to make riding safer by preventing accidents. Bob brought back a DVD for the new Safety & Education officer. The States Motorcycle Safety Association meeting is the same weekend as the Meeting of the Minds. There is a new drug detector out for officers to use that you put on your tongue and it gives a readout of what drugs/medicines you are on. There are also new high resolution cameras being used to check for distracted driving that will show you texting, using your phone, etc. and then automatically mail you a ticket. The Harley dealers have asked if they can sell our ABATE yard signs. The board said that was fine.

Ryan called for a ten minute break with the meeting resuming at noon.

Ryan explained to the board that Windy City has been sent a letter to come to the October BOD meeting for a charter review hearing. There were required to do the 990's, but it was not a sanction; it was to help them. Julie reports the last ones she got were May's. Pauli does not have the president listed as being a current member. John Bloch said she paid by credit card and will send her paperwork to the state office.

**Secretary:** Kat read off the list of chapters that have missed two meetings in a row. They are: Big River, Crawford County, Crooked Creek, Franklin County, Iron Riders, Lost Creek, Northern Illinois, and Old River. Per the bylaws the members of these chapters must be notified. She asked the region coordinators to talk to their chapters as she feels the bylaw needs to be updated. If we change the notification process to email it would save the board money and the state office time. She also asked for input on the impact of that notice. Does it need to be changed to three in a row? Ford County, Lamoine Valley, Shawnee Hills and Union Jack have missed four meetings in a row. She is supposed to put these in the state paper and apologized because she did not. She also reminded all that the October meeting date is the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Bike Raffle:** Howard is at Danville today. Ryan and Dennis reported on how many tickets have been sold on the 2015 bike and the improvements Howard has made to the trailer. He is looking for events to go to and the board feels he is doing a great job already.

**Newsletter:** Carla has sent the Voters Guide to the printer, it will come out in the October paper. It will not be in the November issue as the election may be over by the time that issue is received. October 11<sup>th</sup> is the next deadline.

**Public Relations:** Shirley is looking into some 30 second PSA type commercials and is also looking for donations to pay for them. They would cost \$800.00 per month and run locally. Jim Hamilton expressed his ideas for one. Scott would like to see ABATE become a household name. Shirley said we need to promote our own chapter at other events. She would like to see more incentives to sign up new

members. Don Boland suggested a U tube commercial; it would be cheap and easy to produce. Legs is going to check into other states who have junior memberships at the MOTM. Ryan said there needs to be a change in the bylaws before anyone does any junior memberships. John Bloch suggests an ad in Thunder Roads along with our legislative article. Shirley reminds all that she prefers to be notified by email for supplies.

**Safety & Education:** Violet is at work. Ryan discussed the Ride Smart program. Other states are wanting to see it, but there is no interest at the chapter level here in Illinois. There was discussion as to whether this program is beneficial or not. It is not in the budget and funds are low. Mike Myers will be making a new video with IDOT in October and would like to see some friendly faces in the audience. Carla asked if we could enlist Safety and Education instructors to promote the ABATE scholarship. It was decided that would be fine.

**Activities:** Barb had a family emergency and could not attend today. She is working on the swap meet She will be doing two sessions at the seminar.

**Products:** Julee is getting caps, the university style shirts for the seminar. She will be unveiling some new products at the seminar and running clearance sales on things that no longer sell well.

**Unfinished business:**

1. The letter of intent from Ray Heck for FedPAC was discussed.
2. Bob Myers feels we need to promote memberships more and reiterated that if a chapter wants to do junior memberships they need to submit a bylaw. It should state the requirements and standard procedure for such. John Bloch will talk to Judy Knael about this.
3. Bob Myers wondered if we could put the expiring and new member names in the paper. It would not be cost effective.

**New Business:**

1. Employee review- Motion by Scott Gerke, Don Boland 2<sup>nd</sup> to keep employee salaries as is.
2. Ride Smart – Funds are very low for this as it is not in this year’s budget. Expenses for upcoming events were discussed and whether or not this program helps or hurts ABATE. Dennis Yeager suggested coordinators discuss it with their chapters and donate money if you feel it should be supported. **Motion by Scott Gerke, Pauli Ward 2<sup>nd</sup>, to pay for Mike’s October trip (Heartland STEAM) out of Safety and Education account after the deferred account is depleted. Discussion included Julie Bacon volunteering to write a letter to give to the BOD reps on this, program does show trends. Motion carried. None opposed. EB2014-21**
3. Julie Bacon had a question about chapters donating money to PAC funds, but then their members not being able to attend politician’s events. Bob Meyers will bring this up at the BOD meeting.
4. 2015 Budget- Concerns were expressed over the rise in costs for the prizes to be given out next September. Perhaps we should have fewer prizes in 2016. Doing 50/50’s at events was discussed along with raising membership fees. **Motion by Julie Bacon, Scott Gerke 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the 2015 budget as presented and give to the BOD with our recommendation, discussion, motion carried. Opposed: none. EB2014-22**

5. Raffle truck- **Motion by Pauli Ward, Shirley Lacock 2<sup>nd</sup> to take money out of savings to pay off the raffle truck. Discussion included how Bob Dodson had intended to take care of this in his budget. Opposed: none Motion carried. EB2014-23**

**Region Reports:**

**Northeast:** Still needs chapter flags for the ride, it is advertised in the Thunder Road magazine.

**Northwest:** Dennis expressed his frustration with the Stevenson County Ordinance.

**West Central:** Kevin "Cap" Goudschall was not here because of a death in the family.

**East Central-** Pauli said there is money due yet for 2 state party tickets. Chapter difficulties were reported.

**Southwest:** A brick for Bob Dodson has been purchased for the motorcycle riders memorial. Black Diamond still owes raffle ticket money.

**Motion to adjourn by Pauli Ward, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shirley Lacock, motion carried.**

Time: 2:15

Submitted by: Kat Conner