

Executive Board meeting September 19, 2015
VFW Post 755, 2211 Old Jacksonville Rd., Springfield, IL
Secretary minutes approved with corrections October 17, 2015

A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc.
311 E. Main St. Ste 418
Galesburg, IL 61401

Kat Conner
P.O. Box 53
Ohio, IL. 61349

Executive Board present:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. State Coordinator-Ryan Hubbard | 8. Newsletter- Carla Enburg |
| 2. Assistant State Coor- Jim "Legs" Korte | 9. Activities- Roger Leach |
| 3. Treasurer- Julie Bacon | 10. NW Region- Dennis "Cleaver" Yeager |
| 4. Office Manager- Pauli Ward | 11. EC Region- Scott Carter |
| 5. Secretary- Kat Conner(left at 2) | 12. SE Region- Mick Eddington |
| 6. Legislative- Bob Myers | 13. SW Region- Wayne Cornick |
| 7. Products- Julee Thurman | 14. WC Region- Kevin "Cap" Goudschaal |

Executive Board absent:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Safety & Education- Mike Koester- work | 4. NE Region- John Bloch |
| 2. Public Relations- Shirley "Swirl" Lacock- vac. | 5. NE Region- Ray Heck |
| 3. Bike Raffle- Howard "Carmel" Nation- event | 6. SE Region- Ted Zackro |

Guests present:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Brian Enburg- Blackhawk | 4. Bob White-Southern IL. Ch.27 |
| 2. Rod Taylor-Lincoln Land | 5. George Tinkham-Lincoln Land |
| 3. Martha Patterson- Piasa-Gateway | |

Ryan called the meeting to order at 10:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Scott Carter motion, Kevin "Cap" Goudschaal 2nd, to approve minutes with corrections. Corrections included: change the word with to *without* under eyeglass wipes reimbursement in the amendment to the motion. In the NW region report; Joe Daviess County was not written out.

State Coordinator: Several members need to leave early today, so Ryan changed the agenda to start with New Business:

New Business: 1. **Hupy** Ryan summarized the email he received from Hupy & Associates law firm and as the issue concerns the Non Preferred Vendors list and the firm, not the member, it can be discussed in open session. Ryan sees two issues; the legality of the NPV and also the exclusive rights for advertising. John Bloch sent in comments which were read by Ryan. Rod Taylor, assistant administrator of ABATE of Illinois, Legal Services spoke on the history of the NPV. He also spoke on the spotless record that our Legal Services has had. Several ways to solve this would be to: drop the advertising & not let any attorney advertise, talk to independent legal counsel, or send a reply that we want more time to look into this. He does not see it as having anything to do with the Sherman Anti-Trust Act as Hupy & Associates law firm claims. Pauli asked if we then don't respond by the deadline, what would he do? Ryan said Hupy is aware the BOD does not meet until October. Bob Myers recommended going on the offensive. Kevin "Cap" Goudschaal has discussed the issue in the past with his region and realizes that it is an emotional issue. Do we or do we not have a right to publish what we want or don't want in our membership paper? Julie Bacon is concerned that the BOD does not understand what the entire issue is; that some of the chapters think they will get large amounts of advertising money from the firm. Roger feels we should follow Rod's suggestion of independent counsel as we are all too close emotionally to the issue. Jim "Legs" Korte spoke to the financial issue concerning the chapters who want the firm's funding. In our Legal Plan we have an advisory panel with the

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assistant state coordinator as liaison. The panel needs to meet yearly. We also have a section that says approve plan attorneys- could be more than one. Rod Taylor would still be the manager. This might end some of the friction. Ryan said that he was informed that Hupy & Associates had been offered to be on the plan at one time and did not want to do so. Jim "Legs" Korte said that the state of Illinois has a list of Non Preferred Vendors, so it shouldn't be a problem for us. Mick expressed his concern that the issue has gone on way too long and is hurting BOD attendance because of it. Scott- are the chapter newsletters also property of ABATE of IL. and are the people who write those newsletters directly responsible to ABATE because of the content? Yes was the answer, chapters have been sanctioned in the past. Is there a contract between ABATE Legal Services that stipulates no advertisers for personal injury? There was a 1991 motion from BOD & it is in policy. George expressed his concerns that if Hupy & Associates are the quality of people we want to trust with our membership and mentioned a person who was ill treated by said firm in the past. Cap- we did in the recent past recommend to the BOD to open things up and the same people who seem to push for it voted against it. Feels Ryan needs to respond to the law firm and tell him we are considering private counsel. We are fighting for rights. If we do so, the independent firm needs to learn the entire history. Pauli- we do have a provision in our bylaws to remove members and the threat of a lawsuit would fall in that category. Carla- if Hupy & Associates became a portion of our legal services, then would they need to be removed from the NPV?? Ryan- yes. Roger- reiterated that whatever we decide today Ryan needs to send a certified registered letter to the firm. Mick- isn't it the attorney general's responsibility to answer some questions for us? Could we ask him about the supposed violation of the Anti-trust Act? George- the attorney general responds only to governmental entities, not private. Pauli- we fill out paperwork every year to send to the Illinois Supreme Court about our Legal Services Plan. Ryan says the Legal Services Plan is not in question. Could get rid of the entire NPV, or get Hupy firm off. Doesn't matter if he does come off, in policy says no personal injury advertising. Hupy as a member can donate to his chapter or the state any time he wants to. It was at the November 1991 BOD meeting that a motion was made that created the list. Ryan- if we don't have a list, but have problems with a vendor, just call Rod. Members can then use or not use that vendor. Ryan did read the Sherman Anti -Trust Act and does not see that it affects us as a private organization. Cap- do we have a notice about advertising in the state newsletter? Yes.

Roger Leach motion, Bob Meyers 2nd, that we do seek outside legal counsel to find out the legality of the NPV list, the legality of names on it & the restriction of the personal injury lawyers in our newspaper. Bob Meyer 2nd.

Amend: Put Ryan Hubbard in charge of this aspect and he has a budget of up to \$1,000 without approval by the executive board. Scott Carter 2nd. Pauli said officers cannot spend money out of the deferred account without the BOD approval, but officers can spend up to \$5,000 out of their officer funds without BOD approval.

Opposed to amendment: Pauli Ward, Bob Meyers, Kevin " Cap" Gouschall. Motion carried. EB2015-16

Opposed to motion: Pauli, Bob. Motion carried. EB2015-15

Discussion: How do we determine who the lawyer is and what limitations will be set? Have George or Rod assist so they understand ABATE. Rod said that normally a corporation will assist. How do we get a lawyer and how much do we spend? Ryan suggested speaking to the lawyers where he works.

Roger Leach motion, Julie Bacon 2nd, that Ryan answer Hupy's letter using the certified letter with return receipt, to notify Mr. Hupy that we cannot meet the time frame, that the executive board

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**needs BOD input, and we are seeking outside legal counsel. Opposed: Pauli Ward. Motion carried.
EB2015-17**

Discussion: Can Ryan give him a letter personally at the Meeting of the Minds? Roger said do both- mail the firm one and hand deliver one to Hupy. Bob Myers said Ryan could also use some money out of the legislative budget for expenses.

Motion to break- 12:03 -12:13

2. Budget: Julie Bacon explained how she worked on this next year's budget. The budget is balanced. Julie has suggestions – state party advanced tickets would go up \$5. A one day pass would be \$30 and only for Sat. We need to get more sponsors to help pay for things like trophies. We should raise prices to the seminar also. In order to break even registration would need to be \$40.00. Julie proposed another way to raise money. We could have a 50/50 raffle that would start in December and be given out at the Awareness Rally. Julie had a question for products- could we get rid of the shed full of stuff we don't use? It could possibly be given to each chapter and have chapters sell them. Julie agreed there is a lot of stuff that needs to go. Carla suggested we put the luggage on the seminar auction. Public Relations has a lot of material that is not getting out to the chapters. We are still short and we need more income. Julie Bacon feels the WDC trip is getting too big & too expensive. Could it be cut down some? Also, donated money is going to deferred accounts more rather than to the general funds. Todd is still not turning in receipts in a timely manner, but does not charge us for a lot of things. Membership income is down. Pauli said in 2014 we had 1620 non renewals. If we did a special mailing and gave them a one time, limited time, offer of \$20.00 to renew we could bring in \$3000. The \$3.00 to the chapter on that would be eliminated. This would only go through the state. Julie asked about the bike raffle- do we need all 8 prizes? Does the 4 wheeler & smaller bike actually help sell? Cap- brought up buying another brand of bike too. Mick & Cleaver- do get a lot of attraction for the smaller ones. Cleaver brought up Amboy's yearlong raffle. Ryan suggested Seminar rooms and Awareness Rally rooms- get rid of the single rooms. Julie said it's the programs that are going over the budgets, not the executive board people. Safety & Ed is asking for money, but no supplies, no reports, etc. The executive board is actually under as far as expenses go this year. We need to boost the income. Mick suggested doing every other year for party. Roger feels it would kill it if it went to every other year. He commended Julie & Pauli for their work on the budget. We are still spending money like we are a growing organization when we are not. We need to have professionals look at our organization to grow it, use the state party money to do so. Julie reported that many of her chapter members want a one day only cheaper fee for the party. Cap said there is no guarantee that using the state party money would jump start us. If you take the money out, then later want to put back in, there is no money there. Bob agrees that only having a state party every other year would end it. He does feel that the promotor at the Grand National races would be a help. Vendors want to stay longer for longer venues than ours. Julie Bacon said that Public Relations, Safety & Ed, & Legislative are the three main costs and we need to prioritize our budget. Pauli suggested that maybe we need to have chapters pay more for event insurance. Mick brought up the charity events. Feels we should get 10% if using ABATE name and insurance. Ryan asked if could we e mail the newspaper? Carla wondered who would do that and how? Pauli said that a lot of people change theirs constantly. Cleaver asked if there was a price break on the numbers of papers sent? Pauli asked if the webmaster would be able to do something like that? "Legs"

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discussed a way that organizations can do so with a link so only members got it. Julie brought up how many tickets each chapter would have to sell for a 50/50 raffle. "Legs" brought up the legal aspect of filing the 1099. Julie reported it wouldn't be a problem. New ideas might bring back some interest from those who are burnt out on bike raffle tickets. Other organizations have the same problem with the younger generation who just aren't interested.

Motion by Pauli Ward, Kevin "Cap" 2nd, that under the state office line item, add an income category of member drawing with the income listed as \$22,100. Opposed: none. Motion carried. EB2015-18

Discussion- have the raffle end at state party instead of Awareness Rally. Bob concern with 6th ticket being mishandled. Drawing would then allow us to not take money out of CD's.

Motion by Kevin "Cap" Goudschaal, Jim "Legs" Korte 2nd, to recommend to the BOD that the state budget be passed with increases listed today. Opposed: none. Motion carried. EB2015-19

Dates set for 2016: Swap Meet Feb 21st, Awareness May 1st, State Party June 23-26. Roger gave some details of the changes he and Barb are looking into. He would like to know more about the promotor that worked the Grand Nationals and how he could help us gain members. Cap felt that if possible to switch the good bands to Friday night would help. Scott Carter asked if a beer tent were brought in, would we have to pay additional insurance? No, they have their own and would pay us to be there. Dennis "Cleaver" Yeager said this would hurt the Freeport bar then and the donations received from that. Roger is also looking at bringing in the younger crowd with a different type of band.

Bob brought up that the sound system should not be left in the shed because it will be damaged by heat & moisture. Roger said he could keep in his heated garage.

Mick motion, Scott Carter 2nd, to clean & consolidate the storage shed in Springfield. Opposed: Bob Meyers. Motion carried. EB2015-20

Roger left at 1:33

3. Employee's Review:

No monetary raise in the last 5 years. Cap- invaluable employees, deserve something. Pauli suggested a Christmas bonus. **Scott Carter motion, Mick Eddington 2nd to recommend to give a Christmas bonus of \$500. to each employee.** Discussion on acceptable amounts. **Kevin "Cap" Goudschaal to amend the motion, Scott Carter 2nd, to stipulate that they get it the 1st of December. Amendment: opposed: none. Amendment to motion carried. EB2015-22**

Motion: opposed: none, motion carried. EB2015-21

4. Review Legal Action Fund- balance is a little over \$1,000. No funds have been used for several years.

Motion by Julie Bacon, Scott Carter 2nd to let it ride and take no action, no discussion, none opposed. Motion carried. EB2015-23

5. Operation Freeride: Brian Enburg went over Operation Free Ride as a fund raiser idea. He would like to see this go to the BOD. Pauli- change listed on inactive policy is already in place. Would be a one year trial. Julie asked about the automatic renewal and how does the office keep track if they had a 5 year? Carla wondered how many pay online? Brian would also change date if needed when you review the program.

6. Governor's Ride: Bob Myers brought up the Governor's Ride. He said it was not supposed to be an ABATE event, but it sure seemed to be. He suggested if we participate again, maybe the ride should start in southern Illinois. He will talk more on the event later.

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Motion by Scott Carter, Wayne Cornick 2nd to close New Business, no discussion, none opposed. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Liability insurance:** Pauli stated we still have two chapters that have not paid for their liability insurance: Hubbard Trail and Lost Creek. Kevin "Cap" Goudschaal said that Lost Creek said they have mailed their check. Dukane made an overpayment on the news advertising of \$150.00. Pauli was told to credit the money to the liability insurance to help cover the loss.

Motion by Julie Bacon, Mick Eddington 2nd to close Unfinished Business.

Break at 2:10-2:20

State Coordinator: Ryan stated that Rod Taylor had done well with responding to him over Hupy & Associates and other issues. Ryan thinks that overall we are faring well this year. Ryan discussed the Motorcycle Safety Fund. He stated that the funds can be swept and that we need to tread carefully on this issue. He said there is almost two million dollars in the fund. The colleges are currently funding the program themselves as no funding has been released from the state. Jim "Legs" Korte asked what would happen if the funds are not given to the programs and they would have to cancel them due to a lack of funding? Ryan said that there is a law to protect the program.

Ryan has been questions on the way the BOD meetings are run and if we are in fact following Robert's Rule of Order. Ryan has been studying Robert's Rules of Order and will have more on this at the next meeting.

Assistant State Coordinator: Jim "Legs" Korte discussed the seminar. He needs an updated flyer for the paper. The sponsor form needs to be in the November issue. "Legs" asked if Carla could hold off sending the paper to the printer until after the October BOD meeting. We need to see if the budget passes with the increased seminar fees before printing the registration form. "Legs" said that all officers need to do a workshop. He is checking to see what it would cost to have Slider Gilmore do his "What successful people do" presentation.

State Office: Pauli had a proposal to do a special mailer to all members whose membership expired in 2014. This would be a one-time special and the fees to renew would be \$20 for a single membership and \$40 for a couple. There would be 1620 pieces mailed and it would cost about \$520 for postage and printing. If we got a 10% response we would make \$3300.00. The executive board recommended we do this. Pauli reports that the Lincoln Land membership coordinator (Rude Dog) is taking on the task of trying to get the downed rider cards updated. The following chapters have bills due: Southern Illinois for state party tickets, Peo-Taz, Southern Dupage, and Heritage Trail for newsletter advertising. Pauli also brought up the fact that we had chapters pay for advertising on the products trailer and it did not get done. So the West Central region and Dukane will have free advertising for 2015. Julee Thurman will bring to the BOD that we do a sponsor board when the trailer is used and not letter the trailer.

Treasurer: Julie Bacon asked about the Ride Smart program and its funds. Ryan stated that Mike Myers has not been able to get updated stats from IDOT as IDOT has not updated them due to budget restraints. Ryan will be contacting Mike about the program.

Legislative: Bob Myers stated that two house bills were signed by the Governor and became effective immediately. There were HB3538 (poker run bill) and HB3944 (accent lighting bill).

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HB3626 has insurance language in the bill. He thinks the insurance industry will be against over non vehicle accidents. Pauli asked Bob to clarify and Bob was not certain about the exact language. He will talk about this more later.

Secretary: Pauli said Kat had left dates for the 2016 meeting schedule. February will have to be changed to the 20th and she will take care of it.

Bike Raffle: Howard was absent, no report.

Newsletter: Carla will be out of town for work in November so NO late submissions will be accepted for the December issue. She will wait until after the October meeting to send the November issue to the printer.

Public Relations: Shirley was not present, no report.

Products: Julee has to have back surgery again and will know by the October meeting if she will be able to run for the position again for 2016.

Safety & Education: Mike was absent, no report.

Region Reports

West Central: "Cap" has been in contact with Crooked Creek. The chapter is discussing folding.

South East: There is a problem with Franklin County chapter. Apparently they have been having phone meetings among a few of the officers and the rest of the chapter is not involved. They only have seven members. They are still actively doing Safety & Education classes.

North West: It is quiet in the region. "Cleaver" just worked the Lena Fall Festival booth with the new 2016 raffle bike. Big River chapter is having participation problems.

East Central: Hubbard Trail is struggling. Scott is in hopes that they will come to the next BOD meeting.

South West: The Marble Run income is looking good. Black Diamond chapter is also struggling.

North East: There was no report given.

Ryan thanked all for sitting through and dealing with the issues of this very long meeting today.

Scott Carter motion, Dennis "Cleaver" Yeager 2nd, none opposed. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Submitted by Kat Conner (state secretary) with help from Pauli Ward (office manager).

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