



# TEXAS TIDBITS

TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC

## STATE OFFICER OPENINGS

The following nominations for State Officers closed on September 8<sup>th</sup>:

- Assistant Coordinator
- Membership
- Newsletter
- Independent Representative / Board of Director

Accepting nominations for State Treasurer position through January 1, 2019.

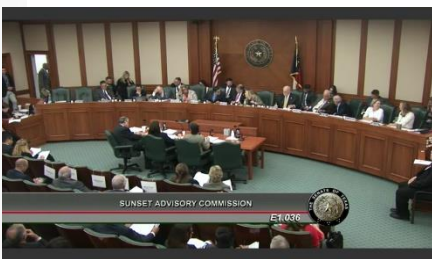
For more detailed information regarding the duties of these offices see pages 17-19 of the Texas Abate Confederation Guidebook for Successful Motorcycle Leadership ([http://www.texasabate.com/guide\\_book\\_2014.pdf](http://www.texasabate.com/guide_book_2014.pdf))

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Skee Dodson, Texas Abate Legislative Officer

The Texas Legislature meets in regular session every odd-numbered year. In Texas that's a big deal, and for Texas bikers that's a really big deal! Our "Texas Biker Legislative Day" in Austin is on January 28<sup>th</sup>, and everyone is encouraged to attend! Staging for our motorcycle parade will begin at 8:00 am, at Hardtail's in Georgetown, KSU for the Capitol at 10:30. Bikers in Texas are hopeful that the 86<sup>th</sup> legislative session will be a productive one for motorcyclists!

In August we rode our bike to the 78th Sturgis Rally. Wow, what a trip that was! While in Sturgis, I had the opportunity to ask seven (7) downtown law enforcement officers if there is a South Dakota law (or city ordinance) requiring two feet be down at a stop sign (most Sturgis tips list that requirement as #1). Six out of the 7 were unsure; one officer said he would find out, while another pointed and said, "Ask the chief." The Chief looked it up in his lil' book of codified traffic law and said that two feet down for a complete stop is not required in Sturgis. I asked, "If I come to a stop in Sturgis, using no feet, I should be ok?" To which he replied, "As long as you come to a complete stop...". I'm still not convinced, but now we know what the law does not say!



As some may remember, the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) is the agency responsible for requesting and administering the motorcycle safety and education fund (GR0501) in our state. On May 25<sup>th</sup> the TxDPS was under review by the Texas Sunset Review Commission. The Sunset staff evaluates the agency and issues recommendations for a positive change--and the Commission identified several areas where "positive change" is necessary! We attended the public hearing and testified as an advocate for our motorcycle safety fund! The TxDPS has never been very transparent nor has the agency ever treated being administrator of the fund as anything "special". The TxDPS Board admitted to the Commission that they never considered the required basic rider course was intended to save lives! We believe that will change. The Sunset Review Commission was supposed to decide which agency should administer the (0501) fund account in late August—and then prepare a presentation for the full legislature. Whatever the Commission decides, we know that Texas cannot afford to have fewer riders take the Basic Riders Course! If fewer riders take the course, fewer riders will be licensed—and Texas definitely cannot afford that!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### STATE:

-11/03/18 State Meeting, Sherman, TX

### ARLINGTON:

-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 12 noon

VFW Post 6111  
1200 W Harris Street  
Arlington 76018

-11/18/18 Bikers Giving Back To Arlington Fire Department

### DENTON:

-4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 2:00 pm

Mr. Porky's  
8430 W University Drive  
Denton 76207

-10/27/18 Dinner Run & Costume Party

-11/17/18 Toy Run

-12/15/18 Christmas Party

### LAKE CITIES:

-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 2:00 pm

American Legion Post 88  
105 Gotcher Avenue  
Lake Dallas 75065

### TEXOMA:

-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 1:00 pm

American Legion Post 62  
419 W Crawford Street  
Denison 75020

-10/5-10/7/18 Real Fun Poker Run

-11/10/18 Freedom Run

Having just returned from Denver, less than a week ago, I really haven't had the opportunity to put my notes together; however, I can say this - the 34th Annual Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) "Meeting of the Minds" was the best MOTM yet! At least 39 States were in attendance, and all of them gave a legislative report! Texas was recognized as the "MOST LEGISLATIVELY ACTIVE STATE IN THE COUNTRY!" Wow! How about that? And the #1 issue in Texas is motorcycle profiling! I took a dozen pages of notes and will cover those in our next ABATE Tidbit newsletter - stay tuned!

Ride safe, ride free, *Speedaddy*

**MID-SOUTH M.I.L.E.**

Six States Strong

Motorcyclists Improving Legislative Effectiveness (M.I.L.E.) This year's event is being held in Midwest City, Oklahoma, October 19-21. If you have never attended one of these weekend conferences, you are missing the mark! These events provide information for everyone from families of riders to seasoned veterans. If you are interested in learning more about what you can do to assist your motorcycle rights organization (MRO) "work together toward the preservation of motorcyclists' freedoms through education", then this is a weekend you will not want to miss! For more information check out <https://www.midsouthmile.org/>

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

Do you know who represents you (<http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>) and where they stand on important issues concerning motorcyclists? With the upcoming elections and the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, now is the time to be sure you know exactly what your reps are vying for.

Where do you stand on some of these issues? Autocycles are currently classified as Motorcycles, which are predominantly two-wheeled vehicles. Autocycles are very different from motorcycles since the driver and passenger are seated side-by-side. More importantly, autocycles do not require a Motorcycle Endorsement nor do they require any specialized driving course prior to operating, yet their accident statistics are included with motorcycles. A Motorcycle Endorsement requires a safety training course approved by the state – completely different operating rules. Where does your representative stand? Do they support reclassification to a separate category so the accidents involving autocycles are separated from motorcycles?

What about Lane Filtering? During the last legislative session, SB288: Relating to the operation and movement of motorcycles on certain highways during periods of traffic congestion, aka the "Lane Splitting" bill, never made it out of committee. This bill would have allowed two-wheeled motorcycles to travel between lanes when traffic is stopped or traveling less than 20 mph. Ask your rep, "Would you support this bill in the upcoming session? How will you work with the Transportation Committee to ensure this makes it to the floor for a vote? Should the bill be revised? If so, how?"

And the "Dead Red" ... HB1240: Relating to the rules of the road regarding red signals at certain traffic control signals. Again, never made it out of committee. This bill would have allowed motorcycles to make left turns at red lights, when safe to do so, if the sensors in the roadway do not recognize that a motorcycle is present. Currently, there are eighteen (18) states that have some form of law allowing motorcycles the right to proceed after a "reasonable" amount of time. How about this one? Where do you stand?

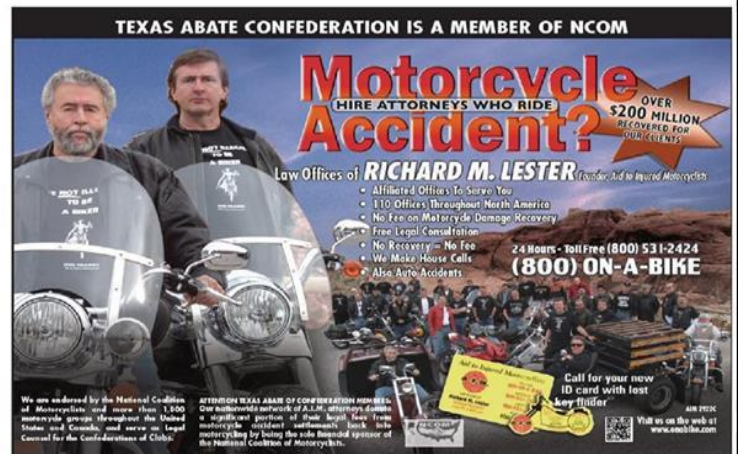
Take a stand and require the same of those elected to represent you and your family!

Ride Easy & Ride Free, Bearpup

**DO YOU KNOW...**

**Where to find Texas Abate Confederation State Meeting Minutes???**

As required, we must provide you an opportunity to review the minutes from our state meetings. Although some information from these meetings can be found in the newsletter, you are welcome to read the official minutes by clicking [http://texasabate.com/newsletters/newsletter\\_archives.html](http://texasabate.com/newsletters/newsletter_archives.html). Scroll down to "State Meeting Minutes" and click on the date you wish to review. Should you have any questions please contact your chapter or independent representative at the link provided on the [Texas Chapters](#) page of our state website (<http://texasabate.com/>)



Texas Abate Confederation, Inc. is a motorcycle rights organization that is dedicated to freedom of the road for all motorcyclists, promotes rider education for all motorcycle riders, motorcycle awareness for all automobile drivers, and fights discriminatory legislation aimed towards the motorcycling community.  
 Dedicated to Freedom of the Road in Hope of Promoting a Better Relationship with the Public for Motorcycle Awareness.