

TEXAS TIDBITS

TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC

Edition II, Volume VIII March - April 2020

in this issue >>>

Independent Corner

Legislation

Membership

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

STATE:

- **04/04/20** MEETING, 1 pm VFW Post 2772, Sherman, TX
- **09/11-09/13/20** State Rally

ARLINGTON:

- 3rd Sunday at 12 noon VFW Post 6111 1200 W Harris Street Arlington 76018
- 03/12-03/15/20 Be Happy Chili Cookoff
- 03/28/20 Bikers Ball
- 04/18/20 Bluebonnet Run

DENTON:

 4th Sunday at 2:00 pm Mr. Porky's 8430 W University Drive **Denton 76207**

LAKE CITIES:

2nd Sunday at 1:00 pm VFW Post 10460 501 Thompson Drive Lake Dallas 75065

TEXOMA:

- 3rd Sunday at 1:00 pm American Legion Post 62 419 Crawford Street Denison 75020
- 02/29/20 Chili Cookoff
- 03/15/20 Pancake & Poker Benefit for Tony Garcia
- 05/15-05/17/20 Old **Fashion Rally**

current topics >>>

2020 STATE OFFICER OPENINGS

The following State positions will be open for nominations, July - September 2020:

- -Assistant Coordinator (Executive Office)
- -Treasurer (Executive Office)
- -Membership (Administrative Office)
- -Newsletter (Administrative Office)

For more detailed information regarding the duties of these offices see pages 12-15 of the Texas Abate Confederation Bylaws



RIDERS NEEDED!

May 7, 2020 - Round Rock, TX

Show your support for riders who died on Texas roadways.

Join us to launch the 2020 Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles safety campaign.

WHO: WHAT: Texas motorcycle clubs and riders

Press conference to launch the statewide Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles safety campaign

WHEN: Thursday, May 7, 2020

- . 12:00 p.m. Arrival by motorcyclists
- . 12:30 p.m. Setup and press photos
- 1:00 p.m. Press conference

WHERE:

Dell Diamond 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd. Round Rock, TX 78665

WHY:

Register your group by April 16, 2020.

#EndTheStreakTX

Be safe and be sure to wear your safety gear.

To show solidarity for riders who lost their lives in 2019 and to raise motorists' awareness of the importance of looking twice for motorcycles

Contact your

Chapter Rep

before April 4th

and let them

know you are

interested in

this event.

Chapter Reps

to bring list of

interested

parties to the

State Meeting

in April

Share the Road.



"BE HAPPY" 21ST Annual Wing& Chili Cook-Off

To register, email Lauren Karasek at Ikarasek@sherrymatthews.com.

March 13" & 14" 2020

Loyd Park, Joe Pool Lake, Loop A

Park entry \$10 per Car or Annual Pass required For more information email: behappychili@amail.com



Legislative Report Skee Dodson, State Legislative Officer, Texas Abate Confederation, Inc.

Spring is just around the corner. Hopefully, everyone is having a good year so far. 2020 marks that time of our Texas legislative cycle when we should begin focusing on the upcoming Texas 87th legislative session - next January. We have a lot of work to accomplish in only a few short months! At the last ABATE meeting we discussed how important it is for each of us, <u>right now</u>, to contact our representatives. We need appointments with our reps – sometime in the very near future. Although they are not currently in

session, setting up a meeting in their hometown may be easier than you think. With a few days notice we can have a small group of freedom fighters attend most any meeting, "any time", to discuss common-sense legislation!

Malfunctioning red lights, lane sharing, definition of a motorcycle, motorcycle safety funds, etc. (note: Rep. Bill Zedler (D-96), sponsor of our red light bill for the last couple of sessions, will be retiring after this year). Most of us have different representatives, as we live in different districts; understand that most Reps will only talk with constituents from their district, and we need YOU (their constituent) to set the appointment. Let your Congressperson know that other enthusiasts will probably accompany you. You can even cc me (not bcc) in your email, and let them know that you are working with (a member of) Texas ABATE. My email: Skee.Dodson@texasabate.com

Find out who your House Representative is here: https://www.house.texas.gov/members/find-your-representative/

2020 also marks the beginning of the end for our (US) 116th legislative session. 2019 was the 1st Session of the 116th Congress, and 2020 is the 2nd Session of the 116th Congress. Let's make sure that we are taking action on all of the current federal motorcycle bills – because, in a few months it will be too late! Presently, we have a bipartisan house resolution; H.Res. 255 - "Promoting awareness of motorcycle profiling and encouraging collaboration and communication..." which addresses motorcycle profiling in every State. This resolution, at the time of this writing, has over 130 co-sponsors - and needs some collaboration! Three Representatives are from Texas (Cuellar, Brady, and Burgess). Other federal bills include: HR1024 (revise E-15 labeling requirements); HR2540 (to alleviate the ethanol blend wall); HR5234 (to establish a Motorcycle Advisory Council); HR5434 (Recognizing the Protection of Motor Sports); S.2602 (Senate version of "Recognizing the Protection of Motor Sports"); and S.3249 (Senate version of establishing a Motorcycle Advisory Council). The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) makes it super simple to take action on most of these bills - with a link on the website: https://mrf.org/federal-legislative-issues/. Let's do this – don't let the 116th session end without taking action!

And speaking of the MRF, they are presently busy planning the **12th Annual** *Michael "Boz" Kerr* **Bikers Inside the Beltway**, the ONLY National Motorcycle Lobby Day held in our nation's Capitol. This event will be held on May 18th & 19th, 2020 (Monday & Tuesday), and we need more Freedom Fighters from Texas to make plans to attend - and get registered soon. Texas has attended this event for the past four years – let's make 2020 the best year yet! If you are not yet an MRF member, you can join online at https://mrf.org/join-the-mrf/.

Remember, our rights come with responsibilities! Ride safe, ride free. Skeedaddy

Visibility is Key Nick Taddonio, Assistant Coordinator, Arlington Chapter

The most important thing for an organization, like ours, to succeed, is a large constituency. Active, informed, and motivated members. Not an easy ask, you say? There are proven ways to achieve it. They have been around, and practiced effectively, for quite some time. And some of it is easier than one may think.

Being visible is the first and most important step to success. Face it, the key is not being some "Secret Squirrel Society." It can be as easy as educating yourself about our organization, it's objectives, and how to present it. Another good way to be visible is as simple as wearing a Chapter or State shirt. Even better, go somewhere with others and have everyone wear Abate shirts. Swarm. Yet another way, monitor the bike events and activities in your area. Heck, some of you might be going to the swap meet, drags or rallies anyway. If so, gather flyers and other items to distribute, maybe even products to sell. Remember giveaways. Don't sit behind the booth. Walk around and share your information. You'll find it usually sparks up a conversation. Meet people from other groups, always make yourself known to any businesses there. Contact is everything.

We, here in Arlington, did this in February. We recently decided to buy pocket constitutions to give away. We marked them with a sticker saying "Compliments of Arlington ABATE" and gave away a little more than seventy. So many businesses and groups are aware and interested in our activities. We had fabulous discussions, also some prospective members. Best \$ \$40 our Chapter has spent in a while. Many, as you know, have never seen one, let alone read or used one as reference. What a conversation starter! Put a face to us as well as access to our website and meetings as well.

Given these pointers, you and your local group could be successful and grow. So much for "Secret Squirrels"!





<u>Dallas Motorcycle Lawyers - Law Tigers</u>

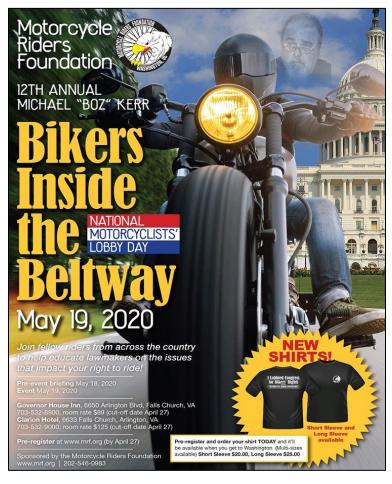
Law Tigers is a national association of independent law firms in various states that represent motorcycle riders. This is a paid advertisement for a network (national association) of independent law firms in various states who are members of the American Association of Motorcycle Injury Lawyers.

MEMBERSHIP

2020 NEW ABATE MEMBERS

Total New Members by Chapter & Independents

<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>
ARLINGTON	0	0
DENTON	1	0
LAKE CITIES	3	3
TEXOMA	2	0
INDEPENDENTS	1	0



INDEPENDENT CORNER

Okay, boys & girls, due to the retirement of our Independent Rep, it is now my duty to communicate with the Independent Members. I am not exactly sure of the best way to do this. I have been a member of Texas Abate for 30 years & have held many positions, none of which have held this responsibility. One thing I always push for is COMMUNICATION.

Texas is such a large state that it makes it difficult to stay in touch with everyone. So, here is my contact information:

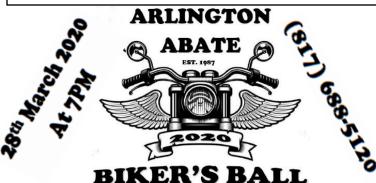
Email: <u>dviles85@gmail.com</u>

Phone: (903)624-1938

Snail Mail: P.O. Box 440, Denison, TX 75021

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Like I said, I am new to this job, but I will do it to the best of my ability. Thank you for your patience & understanding.

Be safe & ride free! Dino Viles, Asst. State Coordinator



Tony Garcia

Pancake Breakfast & Poker Run Benefit

Sunday March 15, 2020 Sherman Elks Lodge #2280 1713 E FM 1417, Sherman Texas

Poker Run Registration and Breakfast start at 10:30 am

> Breakfast \$5 a plate Poker Run \$10 a hand



KSU up at 11:45 am

LAST Bike in to The Eagles Lodge

211 W Main Denison Texas by 2:30 pm

BBQ Dinner \$10 a plate



LIVE MUSIC Live Auction 50/50 drawings

ALL Vehicles welcome

Tony is having major complications caused from a

diabetes wound, and has

been in the hospital for the

past 2 weeks. His medical

bills are piling up quickly

and his finances are dwin-

Tony's family, along with some local musicians are doing a Benefit to help

with those expenses at

The Eagles Lodge on

Texoma ABATE is hosting a Breakfast and Poker Run

fundraiser for that benefit, and we invite you to join

March 15th.

us for the day.

for more details or to make an auction or bake sale donation please contact Kim at 903-814-6225

finalthoughts...

Do you know what is going on in your community? How do you find out? Volunteer. Talk to leaders in your community. What are the "hot" topics of conversation? Do your leaders roll up their sleeves and get in the trenches? Or do they like their "suit and tie" along with their corner office? Ask questions! Give them your input. Let them know where you stand on certain agendas. Will they support what you believe is important? They represent YOU! **Find out who they are...**

https://fyi.capitol.texas.gov/Home.aspx

Contact us at *news@texasabate.com* www.texasabate.com



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DID YOU KNOW:

95% of our readers prefer delivery of their Texas Tidbits via website or Facebook download. If you would like a paper copy mailed to your home, please contact your Chapter Rep or Chapter Secretary www.texasabate.com/chapters



Texas Abate Confederation, Inc, is a not-for-profit, motorcycle rights organization. An alliance dedicated to the protection of the individual rights of motorcyclists through political change and awareness, charitable works, public education and the promotion of motorcycling.