

What is ABATE?

“AN ALLIANCE DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OF MOTORCYCLISTS THROUGH POLITICAL CHANGE AND AWARENESS, CHARITABLE WORKS, AND PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND TO THE PROMOTION OF MOTORCYCLING.”

-PREAMBLE TO THE BYLAWS, TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC.

ABATE began in the early 1970's when a mandatory helmet law was first introduced in the state of California. Easy Riders Magazine and a few supportive groups formed an organization which they called ABATE to fight that law. Since that time, ABATE groups have organized in over 36 states. ABATE also began in Texas in the 1970's and has reorganized three times since then, the latest reorganization coming in 1990. At the present time, ABATE is incorporated in Texas under the Texas nonprofit Corporations Act as Texas ABATE Confederation, Inc.

The name “ABATE” was initially an abbreviation for “A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments.” Since that time, various state organizations have also used: American Bikers Against Totalitarian Enactments” and “American Bikers Aiming Toward Education.” However, in Texas, **ABATE is NOT** an abbreviation. Webster's Dictionary defines the word “abate” to mean “to make less in amount, degree, force, etc.” or “to put a stop to; end.” ABATE seeks to lessen government control of our personal lives; to put a stop to unreasonable and unfair motorcycle legislation; to end the discrimination experienced by motorcyclists on a daily basis.

ABATE is a political organization. The primary purpose of ABATE is to promote political and legislative awareness among its members. ABATE monitors activity in the state legislature daily and reports back to its members through the organization newsletter, legislative bulletins, and when necessary and feasible, by phone. ABATE represents its members at legislative hearings where motorcycle related issues are being considered. ABATE works with other rights organizations to collect process and exchange information which supports the view of its members. Whether legislative actions threaten on the State or Federal level, ABATE keeps its members informed. And because ABATE is a “grass roots” organization, ABATE encourages members and shows them how to participate in the political process by getting involved at the local level.

While ABATE's primary function is political, it recognizes the importance of motorcycling's public image. Therefore, it supports a wide variety of charitable events as well as safety education and awareness programs for both riders and the driving public.

The State of Texas is as big as they come and, therefore, chapters have been formed in a number of locations around the state. Many members find that participation at the chapter level enables them to be better informed and more active in their communities. But chapter affiliation is not necessary. Motorcyclists choosing to join ABATE can join as independents or as chapter members.

As an ABATE member, you become part of one of the largest motorcyclists' rights group in the State of Texas. You will receive a membership card, an exclusive ABATE patch, a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, event fliers and an invitation to the annual general membership meeting. For some ABATE members, motorcycling is a hobby. For some it is a sport. For others it is a lifestyle, and for still others it is only a dream. As an ABATE member, you can help preserve that dream by supporting the organization which supports preservation of your rights as a motorcyclist and freedom of the road.