



Texas ABATE News

Jan/Feb 2016

ABATE IS: "An alliance dedicated to the protection of the individual rights of motorcyclists through political change and awareness, charitable deeds, public education and to the promotion of motorcycling"

Coordinator's Corner

Happy New Year everyone! I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year!

This year will be probably one of the most challenging years for TEXAS ABATE. We are in a non-session year for the capital.

That means we need to work on our own issues! We need to strengthen our current posture from the executive board on down. We won't survive without recruiting new people and bringing up our numbers! We need to spend this year getting out to all the bike shops, parts dealers, clubs, and anyone you see on a motorcycle as well as automobile drivers to get the message out.

I am proud to have been able to witness our newest chapter, EAST TEXAS ABATE on board as a full-fledged chapter, coming off of their probationary status. Our January state meeting was held at the VFW in Frankston TX, hosted by EAST TEXAS ABATE. Thank you all for having us. We all enjoyed meeting some of the new folks. If any of you have any questions or recommendations, "PLEASE" feel free to contact any of us.

There are some new ideas on the horizon that may be helpful to all of us that was mentioned in the meeting.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate this year for more campouts and rallies as well as fun runs to meet new people and spread the word.

I want to personally thank everyone for doing their part to make TEXAS ABATE strong. We need to not only get our business in order but to also start preparing for next year's legislation day at the capital. Don't forget to keep talking to your local representatives. They are getting paid to be there for you! "Use them".

Thank you,

Dave Dobyms

U.S. Defenders / C.O.I.R.

Texas ABATE State Coordinator

214-794-2061

david.dobyms@texasabate.com

Here's a couple helpful links.

VISIT US AT: <http://www.texasabate.com/index.html> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TexasAbate>

Assistant Coordinator

With the legislature's schedule here in Texas we have time to examine what happened in our last session; do more research, meet our rep, build up our chapters and plan for our next round.

Congratulations are in order for David Dobyms, our State Coordinator on his re-election, Mandy Trapp our new Secretary and lastly our new Independent Rep. Carey Bilyeu.

At the Texas Motorcycle Safety Coalition meeting on Dec. 3rd, I learned that the current Chairman, Jude Schexnayder will be stepping down; a replacement will be elected at the next meeting. Mr. Schexnayder will remain an active member. TXDOT will be funding a study to determine the causes of motorcycle accidents and who is responsible for them. TXDOT, Motorcycle Safety Unit is predicting a 30-40% decline in qualified motorcycle safety instructors. To learn about the opportunity to become an instructor visit the website www.dps.texas.gov for more information.

It became apparent that the "M" endorsement tickets should be handled in such a way that the offender takes a class to get the endorsement, not a fine or even a slap on the wrist.

There are two new videos that have been posted on-line, "Geared-Up and Torn Down". You can find these videos on the looklearnlive.com and on U-tube.

Let's keep all those affected by the Waco tragedy in our prayers.

Love & Respect.

Asst. Coordinator, David "Trainwreck" Bryant.

ABATE State Board Meeting
January 9, 2016
Hosted by the ETA "East Texas Abate" Chapter

Location: Frankston VFW – 639 Pine Street, Frankston, TX 75763

Date: January 9, 2016

Opening Statement. David Dobyms – On behalf of Texas ABATE, I want to express my deepest sympathy at the passing of Ann Dodson January 8, 2016. This woman has been a rock and an example for all of us to follow. She has made her mark in our history as ABATE that cannot be erased and will always be in our hearts! God Bless You Ann Dodson.

Assistant Coordinator Report. David Bryant "Trainwreck" – With the legislature's schedule here in Texas we have time to examine what happened in the last session, do more research, meet our reps, build up our chapters and plan for the next go round. Congratulations are in order for David Dobyms, Our coordinator, Mandy Trapp, Secretary, and Carey Bilyeu, Independent Rep. At the Texas Motorcycle Safety Coalition on Dec. third, I learned that the current chairman

Jude Schexnayder will be stepping down, and a will be elected at the next meeting. He will remain an active member. TXDOT will be funding a study to determine the causes of Motorcycle accidents, and who is responsible to prevent them. It became apparent the "M" endorsement tickets should be handled in such a way that the offender takes the class to get the endorsement, not a find, or a slap on the wrist.

Secretary Report: Mandy Trapp – Does not have documentation from the last meetings minutes. A sign in sheet is being sent around to keep track of attendance at this meeting.

Treasurers Report: Robin Warfield Machevicius – absent. No financial report was sent. Motion made to table any further discussion until the March meeting made by Denton Rep Joann York motion was seconded. Motion Passed.

Membership report: Connie Thompson – All Reps were given membership financial sheets to take back to their membership officers and to be filled out each month and sent to the P.O. Box 3331, Coppell, Texas 75019 address. The question was asked about the free memberships; motion was made and second. motion passed to continue doing the free memberships for another year. Make sure the correct address is on the tri-fold.

What can we do because of what happened in Waco? It is causing a problem with memberships. Let prospective members know that we are neutral organization helping bikers in protecting their constitutional rights.

We are proud to have our newest Chapter East Texas with us.

If anyone would like to start a new Chapter, please contact Connie she will send the information you need and is willing to go where ever to assist in getting them started.

Current Membership for Chapters

Chapter	Dues owed for 2015	Members lost
Arlington = 56	\$62.00	- 6
Denton = 61	\$72.00	- 12
East Texas = 21	0 due to being a new chapter	
Golden Triangle = 43	\$50.00	- 6
Independents = 47	None	
Lake Cities = 30	\$57.00	- 27
Net = 23	\$50.00	- 8
Texoma = 70	\$107.00	- 37

Products report: At this time there is no Products office.

Late introduction of Officers and people present at the meeting.

Legislative Report: Skee Dodson – Would like to Thank East Texas Chapter for hosting our meeting. We need to set goals for 2016, there are 10 bills in the 84th legislative session that had to deal with motorcycles rights, 8 of which went to committee and were well represented in Austin. SB 74 – Money Bill – guarantees that motorcycle fees to be spent for education, safety, gathering information and facts for what to endorse and see to get passed. Would be advantageous to have someone with TXDOT to see if and how the money is being spent for the right things.

Red Light and lane splitting – It is important for individuals, chapter and the state to get a hold of the legislators and let them know what we would like to see them do while in office. The last legislative session was semi productive.

Fact sheet has been put on Facebook, choice to wear helmet or not where accidents are concerned are 50/50 meaning that wearing a helmet or not has no real bearing on survival in an accident. Fatalities from motorcycle accidents are going down and not because of legislation but because of bikers

Skee said he will add additional sheets to his Federal Legislative Report as new federal bill are introduced that might affect us. Bill numbers are very important to keep up with to keep possible new members informed.

Long Term transportation bill no check point this is a 5-year bill. This means that NITZA cannot lobby on the state level. Autocycles - we have our hands full with this situation and the requirements. These vehicles cannot be registered in Texas and now will be treated as motorcycles and there is not safety education for these vehicles. They are vehicles with no more than 3 wheels including a steering wheel. We have come too far to have these vehicles mess with the statistics for motorcycle safety. We need to be proactive where these vehicles are concerned. There has only been three weeks of research conducted on these to obtain more information and individual states are dealing with this at this time including Indiana, Tennessee, and Idaho.

Skee is saving everything in a drop box and upon request he will be happy to email them. This is a brand new thing and if anyone has questions or comments please let Skee know.

Security Report: absent. None at this time.

Newsletter: Joann York - Reports are due January 16, 2016 to be included in newsletter she is requesting them from; Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, Secretary Minutes, Membership, Legislative, and Chapter Reps. The newsletter will then be sent to chapter officers and chapter rep. And then it should be forwarded to all chapter members. There is a lot of good information in the newsletter.

AMSEF: Andy Stoodly - This is an ABATE motorcycle safety & Education program with a committee of ABATE members. They are looking to obtain 501C3 TX status but there has been discussion about needing a business plan. There is not enough education in drivers ED programs on motorcycle safety. Schools need to educate new drivers for being aware of motorcycles. Schools, Company safety meeting programs and to educate the public are the intended recipients for the program.

MRF; Andy Stoodly - May 12th, 2016 will be the Bikers in the Beltway a ride to Washington to talk to our Reps; 34 congressman or their aids what we want to see done. Texas has not had anyone to go in the past 3 or 4 years. there is a lot to see at the capital. It is necessary to make appointments not to go into see their congressman and senators while there in May. We need to support the MRF.

Break;

Reconvening meeting at 3:02 pm

Chapter Rep. Reports.

Arlington. Andy Stoodly - The Biker Ball will be on March 12th at Stumpy's 2811 W. Division Street in Arlington 76012 at 7 pm, the state meeting will be held before with the location to be determined.

Denton. Joann York - Officers: Coordinator - Connie Thompson, Assistant Coordinator - Joann York, Secretary and Membership - Brenda Rosenbaum, Treasurer - Neva, Security - Arlen Poer, Run Coordinator - Brian

On December 26th serving at the Harley dealership the chapter earned \$327. The Christmas party was on December 19th and was a good time. January 24th at the General meeting there will be a Chili cook-off between the officers. The remainder of the calendar will be set at the next officers meeting.

East Texas. Don Ashcraft – Since they have just started there is not much to report. Coordinator and Membership – Donna Ashcraft, Assistant Cord. – Dirty Red, Secretary – Debra, we also have 3 new members bringing their total to 24.

Golden Triangle. David ‘Train wreck’ Bryant – At their last monthly meeting, we had four members in attendance. We discussed E-15 fuel and where you can buy ethanol free gas. We will try to have our monthly meetings on Thursday evening to increase attendance. On December 18th we had our Christmas party at the Beaux Reve in Port Arthur. Seven members and a guest showed up for a wonderful meal and fellowship. One of our members participated in the COC&I region 4 Annual Toy Run.

Lake Cities. Larry West – Coordinator Olivia Vaughn, Assistant Coordinator & Legislative Rober Crowdes, Secretary Mandy Trapp, Treasurer, Products & Membership Teri Davison, Chapter Rep Larry West.

Rober is our Chapter Rep in training. Our schedule is as follows; February 13th is the Valentines party 7 – 11 at the American Legion, a joint effort with the Legion. April 9th we will be participating in the Medal of Honor parade in Gainesville at 8 am, if anyone wants to participate they need to contact Larry by the end of February. April 16th we will be having a winey run departing from the American Legion in Lake Dallas at 11 am. May 7th we will be hosting the State Meeting. June 10 – 12 will be our Meet & Greet if the lake is down. There are 15 RV spaces which will accommodate 2 tent campers. We will have lunch on Saturday at 1 pm with a live band in the evening. We are also looking into having vendors. July 4th we will be participating in the Lake Dallas parade. Our Christmas party will be on December 10th at 7 pm. We are planning on assisting the Spirit of Christmas and Angel Tree with a toy run.

Net. Christi Dobyns – On November 28th we had our after Thanksgiving get together at Shooter & Robin’s. On December 5th participated in the Mesquite Santa Cops Toy run, gift cards to Kaufman kids shelter, Christmas party and State meeting at Dave and Christi’s.

Texoma. Skee Dodson – No dates for events have been decided as of yet. They have discussed attending Bikers Inside the Beltway. Having 2 chapter get away in March or April, Chapter get away with other chapters later in the summer, September will be hosting the State meeting and the Real Fun Poker Run in October. Officers: Coordinator – Dino Biles, Assistant Cord & treasurer – Robin Warfield V, Secretary – Tina Dodson, Membership and products – Jody Curtis, Security – Joe Wolfe

Old Business. Motion has been made to accept East Texas ABATE as a new chapter made by Denton; Joann York second by Arlington; Andy Stoody. No Discussion. Motion passed. Welcome to our new chapter East Texas since they have met all the requirements to become a chapter.

The position of State Treasurer – at the last meeting a committee was formed to investigate and evaluate the performance of Robin Warfield Macevicius as Treasurer. As per the Texas ABATE Confederation Guidebook successful Motorcyclist Leadership items on page 20 – Any board member, administrative officer, appointee, member and / or committee person may be removed from office for proper cause; committee finds are under rule #1, #3, #4, #6, and page 21 #B and #D. The recommendation of the Committee is to remove Robin from office due to numerous missed meetings and due to financial reports have not been kept up to date, and given at meetings as per by-laws. The committee is confident that they have met all the criteria. Motion was made by Lake Cities Larry West to remove Robin Macevicius from office, seconded, by Denton Joann York, discussion. Motion passed. A letter is to be sent giving her 30 days to appeal the decision. It was discussed to appoint an interim treasurer to get signatures on accounts for the

chapters. This situation is very uncomfortable with Robin not being here at the meeting. Coordinator appointed Terri as Treasurer for the State. she accepted.

Membership Officer suggested to continue the membership contest; Chapter the recruits the most memberships in a year will have their chapter dues waived for 2016. The individual member who signs up the most new members in the year will receive 3 years free membership. If they are lifetime member, they can give this to whoever they choose. Contest states now and will end Oct 1st, 2016. winners will be announced at the Mid-South Mile banquet to be held later in October.

Point of purchase at motorcycle dealerships for Abate Safety information develop as a group.

Motorcycle Salvage in Irving – It is open to the public and additional information will be added to the Abate website/Facebook by David.

It was discussed that each Harley dealership owner/manager is the deciding person if Abate can recruit at their place of business no Harley Davidson.

Skee mentioned the Lone Star Freedom Fighter Program is still in existence, it requires Abate members to get more involved with the organization, events and their rights. After completing 5 activities a member receives a patch, after completing 10 activities receives a star to be put on the patch. It was discussed to form a committee to see about adding 5 more activities so a member can receive a gold star for their patch.

New Business: It was suggested that we propose a budget for legislative to give state officers the opportunity to attend events in other states and to help defray some of the cost associated with travel in 2016.

Golden Triangle would like to opt out from hosting a state meeting at this time.

Open Floor: Due to the pending change of treasurer for the state it was suggested that chapter wait to send in their chapter fees until this situation is resolved and membership will obtain a separate checking account to keep the funds separate.

Closing of meeting: Motion to adjourn was made by Connie Thompson and seconded by Joann York, motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 4:13 pm

Respectfully Submitted by:
Amanda 'Mandy' Trapp

Our Next ABATE State Board Meeting
March 12, 2016
Hosted by the Arlington Chapter

If you have any questions, please contact David Dobyons at david.dobyons@texasabate.com

Membership

Hope everyone is staying warm in this nice winter we are having. Can't hardly wait for spring to get here. Need wind therapy very badly.

Our numbers are down a little. We need to work harder. Talk to more people about ABATE. Tell them about the accidental death and dismemberment insurance we have that is now \$3000 and is free to all current members. Any questions please contact me.

At the state meeting they decided to keep on doing the free memberships. Just remember they have to attend 3 meeting in order to get their patch. Just write free on the membership application and send it to me. Just a reminder, the free membership is for those that have signed up before.

We are also going to do the contest again this year. The chapter who has the most new members (not to include the free) will get their Charter Fee's free next year. The one person who gets the most new memberships will receive 3 years' free membership. Contest started January 9th and will end Oct 1st, 2016. Any questions please contact me.

Here are our numbers for memberships:

Arlington 56, Denton 61, East Texas 20, Golden Triangle 43, Independents 47, Lake Cities 30, North East Texas (NET) 22, Texoma 70. These numbers were as of December.

Let's make 2016 a great year. Always carry a tri-fold with you. Talk about ABATE, explain the insurance. Remember we are all fighting for our constitutional rights not just as bikers but as Americans. Contact your Reps let them know what you think, let's all work together to get this Country back to what we really believe in.

Connie "Wild Thang" Thompson
Texas ABATE Membership Officer
cjrdruner@yahoo.com
214-399-8353

ABATE Legislative Update ***By Skee Dodson – State Legislative Officer***

ABATE is dedicated to preserving the rights of all motorcyclists, regardless of what you ride. We encourage everyone to become involved in the legislative and political processes to protect our freedom to ride. Get involved by joining ABATE, register to vote, contact your legislators, and stay informed of legislative issues concerning your motorcycle rights.

Legislatively, 2015 has been a busy year for bikers in Texas. By all indication, 2016 will be just as busy!

We started the year by implementing HB 3838, commonly known as Malorie's Law, which became law on Jan. 1st. You may remember that HB 3838 (Malorie's Law) requires passengers to have foot pegs and hand holds if the motorcycle is designed to carry a passenger (only 2 states do not require foot pegs: Mississippi & Missouri); Malorie's Law raised a lot of controversy in Texas, since the law did not define what constitutes a handhold—don't forget, there is a \$500 fine for



violators. This new law also requires licensing and training for 3-wheelers; and if you take the basic “Course for Motorcycle Riders” it now includes education on riding with a passenger.

Some of our accomplishments in 2015 included going to Motorcycle Legislative Day for the 84th Texas Legislative Session on January 28th. There were 10 motorcycle-related bills introduced during our 84th session, and 9 made it to a committee. Among those bills, one bill was for the definition of a motorcycle, two bills regarding lane splitting/filtering, two bills regarding proceeding through red lights, and two bills regarding funding for motorcycle training and education. Two bills were signed by the Governor, and became law; Unfortunately, one of the bills introduced was for auto cycles--SB 449: “Relating to the titling, registration and operation of an Autocycle”. For the purpose of all transportation code subsections, “an Autocycle is considered a motorcycle”; they are to be registered as motorcycles, even though they have a steering wheel & bench seating! Chapter 661 of the Texas Transportation Code is amended to read: “Protective headgear for Auto cycle” ...then it goes on to define an Autocycle. ABATE did not endorse this SB 449, and we’ll work hard to try to amend it—both on a federal and state level (like the federal bill, we consider this bill to be very detrimental to the motorcycling community)! The second bill to become law was SB 754, and we often referred to this bill as our “Money Bill”. In Texas, \$3 is collected on every MC license renewal, which was deposited into a special account designated to be spent on motorcycle training & education; However, the money was not being spent, and over the years, this fund had accumulated to over 18 million dollars! This bill would not have been possible without the help of the Texas Confederation of Clubs & Independents, Texas ABATE, and many other clubs and independents in our motorcycling community. It was truly a combined effort. Texas tried to pass a similar bill during the 83rd Session, but it never got assigned a bill number. During the 84th legislative session we got a sponsor, and finally got it passed! Sen. Watson authored SB 754--relating to funding for 1) Training & MC Safety Programs; and 2) Conducting MC Safety & Share The Road campaigns- as described in the Transportation Code (Sec. 201.621).

In May, five of our ABATE officers (4 state officers) went to Denver, Co. for the 30th Annual NCOM Convention (National Coalition of Motorcyclists). At the convention, we identified motorcycle profiling as our number one concern! The entire convention and brotherhood experience was awesome; the material presented was valuable, timely, & very informative! Also in May, was our Motorcycle Safety and Awareness month in Texas. Texas ABATE, with many other Texas clubs and independents, received countless proclamations throughout the State, including one that ABATE got from our newly elected Governor - Greg Abbott.

So what is Texas ABATE planning for the new year? 1) We are gathering our facts for the 85th legislative session in 2017. Texas ABATE will support all bills that died in a committee during the last session (red light bills, lane splitting bills, etc.). We need to communicate with each and every sponsor on the bills that died in committee, and ask our sponsors what we can do to help it pass through next session. We need to let our legislators know what they are doing right, and ask them how we can help them (we can advance our motorcycle agendas much better by working together). 2) We are monitoring the spending and implementation of SB 754 (our money bill); we need to make sure that the money is actually being spent on training & MC safety programs--and for conducting MC safety & Share The Road campaigns. 3) We are being proactive in our preparation for repealing any definition of an Autocycle as a motorcycle (½ auto, ½ cycle—why mc?); ABATE believes that “Autocycles” should be a separate classification—and let Autocycles be responsible for their own statistics! 4) ABATE is also addressing motorcycle profiling in Texas. Typically, profiling is not a “motorcycle rights” issue, it is a civil rights issue--and those battles will be fought in civil courts. However, it will

be our job to educate the public--that we do have these rights (think 1st Amendment rights)—and if we don't act like we do, well...then we don't.

5) We are paying attention to noise ordinances, which with recent attention, is making a comeback—we need to stay diligent. As we often say, if we can't regulate ourselves, someone else will—and we can't afford that! We need to educate ourselves, and our members. “When in town...throttle down”. And, 6) ABATE needs to recruit and educate new “freedom fighters” --at every level, in every chapter! We need members who are interested in fighting for their freedom to ride, and to stand up and get involved! The best time to get involved is now—We need to educate, motivate, and legislate!

And finally, ABATE is making plans for May of 2016 to ride to our Capital in Washington D.C. for the 8th Annual Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) “Bikers Inside the Beltway”. Texas ABATE will represent our great State of Texas, and will join freedom fighters from all over the USA! We are going to ride to Washington DC to fight for our motorcycle rights--on a federal level!

Bikes, buses, or cages—everyone is welcome. This will be a historic event for Texas—so make your plans to attend now! Our rights come with responsibilities.

Ride safe; Ride free!

Skeedaddy

Chapter Reports



Denton

We had a very good turnout for our Christmas party. The auction was fun, just when you thought an item was finished someone jumped in at the last minute. We will be setting our 2016 event calendar at our next officer's meeting.

~ Never ride faster than your guardian angel can fly ~

Joann York
Joann.york924@gmail.com



Arlington

Well we had our officer's election and we have two Asst. Coordinator's now. They are Debbie and Q-Ball. We have Bennie as our security officer and Shelly as treasurer and Marsha as secretary and Andy is training a new Chapter Rep. Penny is membership and Doc is Pr. and I am coordinator again. We have a couple of new officer's and we are planning some new rides. Like the Valentine's Day ride to the homeless. Then in March 12 is our Biker's Ball. Probably in April will be a campout. Still working on May for Motorcycle Safety month. Of course August will be our Scorcher ride. From there on we will see. So the excitement in our Chapter is an all-time high. Of course we will be working on our legislative agenda also. So come on out and let's go for a ride. Thanks to all of our great members for their support and for volunteering your time.

See 'ya, Rick Boland



Golden Triangle

At our last meeting, we had 4 members in attendance. We discussed E-15 fuel and where you can buy ethanol free gas. We will try to have our monthly meetings on Thursday evenings to increase attendance.

On December 18th, we had our Christmas party at the Beaux Reve in Port Arthur. 7 members and a guest showed up for a wonderful meal and fellowship.

One of our members participated in the COC&I Region 4 First Annual Toy Run.

David Trainwreck Bryant,
Asst. Coordinator / Chapter Rep



NET

We'd like to thank everyone for coming out to the October 31 state meeting. Remind your members that everyone is welcome at the state meetings.

We are proud to have our newest chapter, East Texas, officially on board. We look forward to working with you!

On November 28, we had our annual Thanksgiving feast at Shooter and Robin's. The turnout was great as always and so was the food and conversation. December 5 we went on the Santa Cops Toy Run in Mesquite. From there, we went to the Kaufman kid's shelter and presented them with Wal-Mart gift cards. Afterwards, we had our meeting and Christmas party.

The next Region 9 COC meeting will be on Sunday, February 28 at VFW Post 5073, 639 W. Pine Street (Hwy. 175), Frankston at 2 p.m.

Even though the legislature isn't in session this year, we need to start preparing now for Legislative Day next year. We need to get our representatives on board now rather than wait until the last minute to ask for their support.

Some highlights from the Winter issue of Ride Texas: Texas Senator Kirk Watson's diary of his trip to Sturgis last year, multiple maps including riding routes to find the best kolaches, and a great section on women who ride motorcycles.

Check them out at www.rideTexas.com.

Christi Dobyns

East Texas

We have 5 people who have expressed an interest in joining at our next meeting in November (22). Gary Cannon and his wife from Brother's Keepers MC, Tim and his wife who are with the Patriot Guard Riders, and Ron Howarth who was an ABATE member from up north who has relocated to Texas. We currently still have 20 members.

We are still working towards our Angel Tree project. We will be getting raffle tickets printed within the next week. Proceeds raised from this event are going to fund children and elderly on the Smith County Angel Tree for Christmas this year.

Our next membership drive incentive will kick off during the COC state rally. Everyone who joins ABATE, will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card.

COC&I State Rally 2016 will be held in Tyler. ABATE will be given a 10X10 booth area with electric hookup. The rally is April 8,9,10.

Report Prepared by,
Donna "VanillaChocolate" Pierce
East Texas Chapter ABATE Coordinator



Facing up to the consequences of crashes

A van driver in Iowa crosses the center line of the road, running head-on into a group of six motorcyclists. Three are killed, and two more are seriously injured. The driver gets off with a fine of \$70—less than an average speeding ticket.

In Oklahoma, a driver runs over a motorcyclist who was slowing to make a right turn. The driver pleads guilty to negligent homicide. She is sentenced to 30 months' probation and ordered to perform unspecified "acts of kindness."

A U.S. congressman from South Dakota with a long history of traffic offenses blows through a stop sign at over 70 mph, causing a crash that kills a motorcyclist. A jury takes just a couple of hours to convict the driver of second-degree manslaughter, a felony that carries a maximum sentence of 10 years. The judge gives him just 100 days.

Outrageous? We think so. And there are literally dozens of cases just like them across the country, in which drivers seriously injure or kill motorcyclists, then get off with little more than a slap on the wrist.

Tragedies like these have prompted the AMA to establish the Justice for All Campaign, which focuses on inadequate sentencing of drivers who seriously injure or kill others on the road. This campaign seeks to

enhance penalties, including fines, driver's license suspensions and jail time, for those who commit traffic offenses that injure or kill others, and to have motorcycle-awareness instruction included in each state's driver-education program.

Motorcyclists in Virginia, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Washington already have been successful in getting elements of the Justice for All Campaign written into state law. And dozens of groups have signed on in support of the effort.

If you would like to help promote Justice for All legislation in your state, contact AMA Legislative Assistant Sean Hutson. Visit us at: <http://www.americanmotorcyclist.com/>



Ride with the Leaders

"We're in the Freedom Business" ~ Karen Bolin

The based The MRF that arena of



Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF), incorporated in 1987, is a membership-national motorcyclists' rights organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. monitors and when necessary, sways federal legislation and regulatory action pertains to street riders. The MRF concerns itself with what is going on in the motorcycling safety education, training, licensing, and public awareness. The MRF provides members and state motorcyclists' rights organizations with direction and information to protect motorcyclists' rights and motorcycling. The MRF sponsors annual regional and national educational seminars for motorcyclists' rights activists and publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, The MRF Reports.

MRF Position Paper on Riding Impaired

A number of years ago the MRF formed the Alcohol Awareness committee as an advisory committee to the Board of Directors. The reason for this committee and the ongoing work is due to the increasing awareness of government agencies of the issue of impaired riding. Impaired riding has been an issue for many years but in the past decade it gained prominence to the point it is a major part of any discussion where motorcycle safety is the topic. The MRF board tasked the committee to develop a program part of which will present the MRF position on impaired riding. The following position paper was presented to the Board at the September 2009 BOD meeting and with minor adjustments agreed upon and approved.

Impaired Riding Position Paper


Impaired riding is increasingly becoming a serious problem causing escalating attention in both the motorcycling community, and the various bureaucracies with oversight of motorcycling fatality statistics. As

awareness of this issue increases, individuals and organizations alike must make decisions as to how they will address the concerns of riding impaired.

Impaired riding occurs in a variety of conditions, the most common and probably of most concern is alcohol. Drinking and riding is the most obvious and the most frequently pointed to as a cause of concern. However, impaired riding is also a condition that occurs under the influence of prescription drugs, illegal drugs, and over the counter drugs. As leaders in the motorcycling community we must educate and inform riders of the hazards and encourage personal responsibility.

Impaired riding is cited as the cause of Forty-one percent of the 2,182 motorcycle riders who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2007, they had BAC levels of .08 or greater, (NHTSA). Motorcyclists must face the fact that this number is the one area where the fatalities are in our direct control. If we want to bring about a reduction in the number of impaired riding fatalities each of us must watch out for ourselves and those we ride with.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation, MRF, has taken the position that individual responsibility is the ultimate way to reduce fatalities. We encourage organizations and riding groups to do what they can to take proactive efforts promoting unimpaired riding. Through outreach campaigns of the risks associated with riding impaired; using education and awareness of the various ways one can become impaired; and promoting and increasing efforts to watch out for fellow riders, we can make a difference and perhaps save a life and at the same time reduce the fatality numbers.

 <p>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY (All information treated confidentially)</p> <p>Referred by _____ Date _____ MRF# _____ Exp. Date _____ Member was given: <input type="checkbox"/> Pin <input type="checkbox"/> Patch <input type="checkbox"/> Year Rocker <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter What issue? _____</p>	<p>It's time you did something more to protect your rights!</p> <p>JOIN AND SUPPORT Motorcycle Riders Foundation REGISTER, VOTE, WRITE AND RIDE!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Annual Individual Membership \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year Individual Membership \$80 <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Sustaining Membership \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Joint Membership \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year Joint Membership \$130 <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Member # _____ Freedom Fighter Donation: <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____</p>	
	<p>PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE YOUR INFORMATION</p>	
Name _____		Phone () -
Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____
E-mail Address _____		
Are you a member of a state motorcyclists' rights organization? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, name: _____		
Mail with remittance to: Motorcycle Riders Foundation, Inc., 236 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Suite 204, Washington, DC 20002 (202) 546-0983 • FAX (202) 546-0986 • http://www.mrf.org • mrfoffice@mrf.org		
<p>CHARGE IT!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express</p>	Card # _____	Exp. Date _____
	Signature _____	Date _____

