



TEXAS TIDBITS

TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC

BRINGIN' THE HEAT



The dog days of summer are here—and today (7/21/18) is forecast to be the hottest day on record since 2011. It is supposed to get up to 110° today—and we should all stay inside and hydrate! Good luck with that—lol! Seriously, PLEASE take extra precaution when riding your motorcycle in this heat. Remember that the 100 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day are considered to

be the 100 deadliest days on our highways! **42%** of multi-vehicle motorcycle fatalities in Texas occur at intersections (approx.. 50% of TX fatalities are single vehicle...motorcycle only)! If you are reading this, you made it 'half way'! Good job—keep it up!

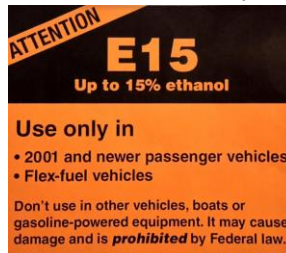
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Skee Dodson, Texas Abate Legislative Officer

The lazy days of summer are definitely here, but let's not get lazy contacting our reps regarding federal motorcycle bills. As many of you know, this is the final 5 months of the 115th (US) Legislative Session--we have approximately 13 motorcycle-related bills in various committees. These bills include **HR 5855** (to expand consumer awareness of E-15 fuel);

HR 736 (Black Box Privacy Act); **HR 2381** (Autocycle Safety Act); **S. 203** (RPM Act); **HR 777** (E-15 gas); and several others (**HR 701**, **S. 966**, **HR 4066**, **S. 517**, **HR 1311**, **S. Res. 154**, & **H. Res. 318**).

What we need to stress, as Texas ABATE does at the end of each session, is to focus on bills & resolutions that have the best chance of making it to the committee floor for a vote—and which bills (or resolutions) we can still have an impact on. One resolution, **H. Res. 318**, has 32 co-sponsors (at time of writing) and is gaining momentum! This resolution "**Promoting Awareness! of Motorcycle Profiling**" desperately needs our help! If you only focus on one federal bill (resolution) during the rest of these dog days, please take action on H. Res. 318! It only has one chamber (house) to pass! If you haven't done so yet, go to the MRF (Motorcycle Riders Foundation) website and take action by sending a form letter to all of your reps; <https://mrf.org/federal-legislative-issues/>, it only takes 1 minute (then take action on HR 5855 too)! Representative Ratcliffe is on the subcommittee (Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security & Investigations) where this resolution has been referred to. He is congressman for House District 04—which is my district! Texoma ABATE sent out 18 letters to Rep. Ratcliffe -- asking him to help bring H. Res. 318 to



the floor! If John Ratcliffe is your

representative, and you haven't sent him a letter yet asking for his support, let me know (email: Skee.Dodson@TexasAbate.com); I have your letter, ready to email to him! Easy, right? Let's do this! Consider these facts from the MPP



UPCOMING EVENTS

STATE:

- 09/07-09/09/18** State Rally, Bells
- 09/08/18** General Membership Meeting

ARLINGTON:

- 3rd Sunday at 12 noon**
VFW Post 6111
1200 W Harris Street
Arlington 76018
- 08/19/18** Bikers Giving Back
VFW Post 6111
- 09/14-09/16/18** Chapter Get Away

DENTON:

- 4th Sunday at 2:00 pm**
Mr. Porky's
8430 W University Drive
Denton 76207
- 09/15/18** Teddy Bear Run
- 10/27/18** Dinner Run & Costume Party
- 11/17/18** Toy Run
- 12/15/18** Christmas Party

LAKE CITIES:

- 3rd Sunday at 2:00 pm**
American Legion Post 88
105 Gotcher Avenue
Lake Dallas 75065

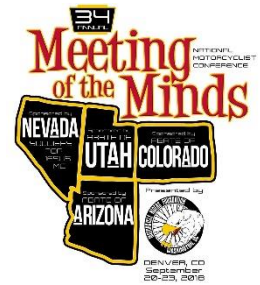
TEXOMA:

- 3rd Sunday at 1:00 pm**
American Legion Post 62
419 W Crawford Street
Denison 75020
- 07/21/18** Hotter 'n Hell Pepper Cookoff
- 08/03-08/05/18** Chapter Get Away
- 10/5-10/7/18** Real Fun Poker Run

(Motorcycle Profiling Project): Texas is #2 in the nation for reported profiling incidents; 37% of respondents are American Veterans; 84% voted in the 2016 election; and less than 2% of the respondents have a felony conviction! Riding a motorcycle, or wearing motorcycle apparel, does not warrant a legal stop to ask questions! It is unconstitutional, illegal, and must stop! Getting this federal resolution passed will make it easier for us on a State level--in Austin next legislation session in January.

The Sunset Advisory Commission has not yet made a decision regarding the TX-DPS' handling of our Motorcycle Safety Fund (0501). As you know, I went to the Sunset Commission hearing on the DPS, representing ABATE (and all), and testified as the only advocate for our 0501 Motorcycle Safety Fund! I was also concerned about the lack of transparency for our funds, and the manner in which the DPS had requested them! At first we thought moving the fund administration to another agency (TDLR) would be in our best interest; Senator Watson discussed that moving the responsibility to another agency could perhaps reduce the number of rider courses being offered (and taken) in Texas. In 2017, 34,000 Texas riders took the motorcycle safety course (1,000 took the ATV course)--Texas **unendorsed rider fatalities** were near 27% of total fatalities! Whatever we do in Texas, we have to do it right; we cannot afford to have fewer riders taking the basic rider course, and we definitely cannot afford to have an increase in our unendorsed rider fatalities! Our presence at the hearing definitely brought attention to the misappropriation of our Motorcycle Safety Fund! The Sunset Commission will make their decision on August 29th or 30th (https://www.sunset.texas.gov/meetings#meeting_3117).

And finally, don't forget the MRF "Meeting of the Minds" is coming up in September! Make plans to attend now, as this promises to be an historic MRF event! This year is the first time that this event is sponsored by 4 States! Meeting of the Minds '18 will be held in Denver, CO, September 20-23, 2018, at the Renaissance Denver Hotel. [Download the MOTM 2018 Flyer here.](#) I hope to see many of you in Sturgis next month! Ride safe—Ride free. ~*Skeedaddy*



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. 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/>)

Who Represents You???

It is important to know who your local, state, and federal representatives are, and where they stand on important issues. Follow this link <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx> to find out the names and contact information for your representatives. Reach out and make known what issues are important to you. After all, they are your voice!

STATE OFFICER OPENINGS

Did You Know...?

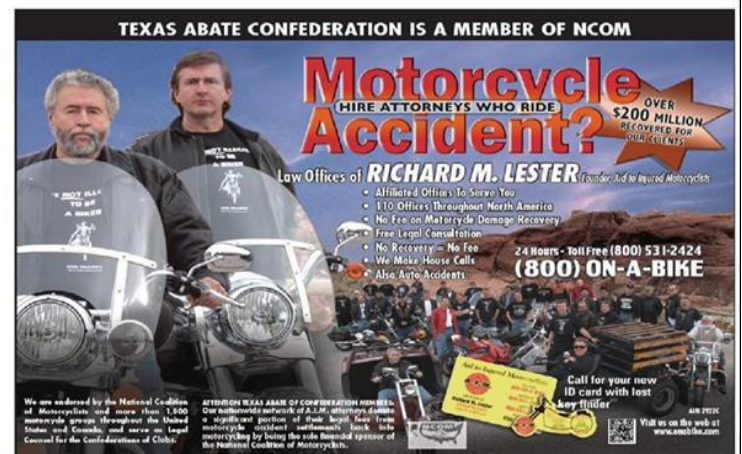
The following State positions will be open for nominations July - September 2018:

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

or 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)

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

It's been a great year, so far. Thanks for all the support! Please contact me at news@texasabate.com regarding upcoming events, legislative concerns, or other information you wish to share. Keep in mind, space is limited and therefore not all submissions can/will be included, but I will do my very best to provide links to help spread the message.



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.