



TEXAS TIDBITS

TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC

Edition II, Volume IX
July - August 2020

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Upcoming Events

STATE:

- **AUGUST MEETING**, 1 pm
Denton – check the [state website](#) for more details
- **09/11-09/13/20** State Rally

ARLINGTON:

- **3rd Sunday at 12 noon**
VFW Post 6111
1200 W Harris Street
Arlington 76018
- **11/15/20** Bikers Giving Back to Arlington Fire Dept

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
- **06/12-06/14/20** [Old Fashion Rally](#)
- **06/13/20** VA Hospital Ride
KSU at 4:30pm, from Old Fashion Rally to Bonham

Many events have been cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19. Please check our website

<http://texasabate.com/events.html> **OR**

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/texasabate/> **for updates.**

current topics >>>

2021 STATE OFFICER OPENINGS

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

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

Nominations will close at the October State meeting and voting will take place at the December State meeting.

For more detailed information regarding the duties of these offices see pages 12-15 of the [Texas Abate Confederation Bylaws](#)

MEMBERSHIP Rober Crowis, State Membership Officer, Texas Abate Confederation, Inc.

TEXAS ABATE MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

1. In order to remain an ABATE member in good standing, renewal membership dues for expirations in January through June 2020 need to be paid by July 1, 2020.
2. ABATE members should provide any contact information changes/updates (i.e. new mailing address, email address, phone number) to the State ABATE Membership Office so membership records stay up to date. The State will communicate this information to Chapter Membership Officers via monthly membership reports.
3. American Income Life Insurance (AIL) offers additional "No Cost Benefits" to all ABATE members who return their beneficiary cards AND schedule an appointment. Below is a list of these benefits that will be discussed during your meeting with the AIL rep.
 - a. Gift Certificate for a free full year's \$2,000 AD&D coverage an ABATE member may give to any individual who is not a current ABATE member.
 - b. AIL PLUS One-Year Membership at no-cost to you which includes:
 - i. Member Access to Mobile App, Membership Portal, Provided Search, Customer Service
 - ii. Discounts 10-85% on the following healthcare products & services
 - iii. Pharmacy
 - iv. Vision
 - v. Dental
 - vi. Telemedicine
 - vii. Chiropractic
 - viii. Durable Medical Equipment
 - ix. Diabetic Supplies
 - x. Hearing Aids
 - xi. Lab Testing
 - xii. MRI & CT Scans
 - xiii. Vitamins
 - c. Child Safe Kit(s)
 - d. No Cost Law – Last Will & Testament Kit

2020 NEW ABATE MEMBERS

<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>
ARLINGTON	0	0
DENTON	0	0
LAKE CITIES	2	1
TEXOMA	0	0
INDEPENDENTS	0	0



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

The first day of summer is just around the corner, and it is sure beginning to feel like it. Summer is probably my favorite season, and I am sure that being a motorcycle “enthusiast” has a lot to do with it. This summer also marks that time of year when Texas motorcycle activists start to prepare for the 87th legislative session – which begins in approximately six months. I hope everyone reading this Tidbit is making plans to attend our motorcycle legislative day on January 25th.

It appears to me, like never before, that legislators no longer have to answer correspondence from their constituents – especially if our concerns are unpopular. Many of us have written several emails lately (including snail-mail) and have gotten very few replies. Personally, I did receive a reply from one Texas State Agency, asking me (in so many words) not to contact them again in the future. LOL! The only reason we got a reply from this agency was because we wrote that we would incorporate the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to find out who is receiving our email - and failing to acknowledge it. On two occasions, I wrote a letter to my Senator desperately seeking his help with our ongoing concern of the DPS misappropriation of our motorcycle safety fund in Texas. Again...crickets! No advice, no reply, no concern. This is indeed disturbing to me; do our representatives no longer encourage communication from their constituents? In April, Texas ABATE requested a proclamation from Gov. Abbott – to proclaim May as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness month in Texas. We usually send the request by email, and also send a printed letter (USPS - just in case one is not received on time). We have requested a proclamation from the governor, and have received one, five years running - but not this year. Not even a reply from the Governor’s office! Bueller? Bueller? Beuller?

So, this is the new direction we’re riding in, legislatively, in Texas - and probably across the Country. We are starting to learn what to expect. I am convinced, that by not answering correspondence, our elected representatives do not wish to get involved - ok, but give us a good reason why, or why not. Are we wasting our time? Do they still represent us? Do they want our vote? One thing is for sure, we won’t give up, or go away! The upcoming session will definitely test our “mettle” (inherent quality of character; fortitude; courage). Texas enjoys many motorcycle organizations and independent freedom-fighters that are willing to fight for our rights – and we look forward to asking these very questions this January, in Austin!

TWO IMPORTANT STEPS TO TAKE ACTION TODAY:

- 1) Find out what Texas Senate District you live in (write it down). Who is your Senator? Running for re-election?
- 2) Find out what Texas House District you live in (write it down). Who is your representative? Running for re-election?

In many instances, our legislators are correct in their hopes that we will go away. For example - we send an email to our representatives to whom we receive either no reply, or a “canned” reply. We are happy that we did our part by “taking action” on an issue; however, what makes it ineffective is the fact that we accept their response (or non-response) as presented to us. Are we really happy with their

response? NO! WE ARE NOT! Are we happy with their response that they will “keep our best interest in mind”? No, probably not. Are we going to challenge their response, or ask them to answer our actual question? No, probably not. Are we happy that we didn’t even get a response? Well, that’s up to you. In essence, we are telling our legislators that we are only taking action as a member of a motorcycling community that has concerns - and that any response is acceptable (even no response). Many of us believe that “taking action” is all that is required. Are we going to follow up on any response that we disagree with, or one that your rep side-stepped? No, probably not - but we can change those expectations, right? We definitely need to!

Perhaps your rep didn’t get your email, or perhaps there is nothing that they can do to help us. Perhaps your rep is tired of hearing from you, or maybe your issue doesn’t fit their agenda for the next session – all of that is irrelevant! Never accept that your request is not important enough for an adequate response. You are registered to vote, right? Just because your rep replied with a canned letter does not mean that you cannot question his (her) response. I am convinced that the general belief in our Capitol is “if you ignore bikers long enough, they will go away”. Learn who your elected officials are here: <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>, and save their address. I think it is safe to say that we are being ignored all too often by our representatives – but we are not going away!

Stay hydrated, my friends! Ride safe – ride free, *Skeedaddy*

[Dallas Motorcycle Lawyers - Law Tigers](#)

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.




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Large	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
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2XL	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
3XL	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
4XL	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
5XL	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____



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QUESTIONS??? CALL: Tina Dodson, Products Officer (903)815-0299

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PayPal - SEND MONEY TO: tinadodson@sbcglobal.net

Personal Check: Make Check Payable To "Texas ABATE"

*Mail THIS FORM & Check To: Tina Dodson
 P.O. Box 2182
 Pottsboro, TX 75076

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Click on "Send & Request" (in top blue bar); Enter the following email address: tinadodson@sbcglobal.net; Click on little blue envelope with this email address;
 Enter Grand Total Form: Add Note "Texas ABATE Shirt/s" along with your name and ph#...Color/Qty/Size/Deliverv Info

MRF REPORT

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) was alerted by our contacts in the U.S. Senate regarding a proposed change to the dedicated 405 Motorcycle Safety funds in the National Priority Safety Programs that is authorized through the Highway Bill. The proposed change to this program would add another criteria for states to qualify for motorcycle safety funds. In order to qualify, states have to meet two of the six current criteria. In addition to the current criteria, the additional qualifying area would add a category for states that have a mandatory helmet law for anyone under the age of 18. While meeting the under 18 helmet law is not mandatory to receive these funds, we at the MRF oppose any such change. We cannot allow any amount of erosion of our rights on this issue. The MRF is adamantly opposed to any federal law that would require the use of a helmet, apparel or conspicuity standard.

We are actively monitoring this situation to make sure that this staff discussion does not find its way into any draft highway bill legislation. The back-door attempt to include language that leverages a state without a helmet law for those under 18 as one of the minimum criteria may encourage some states to change their current laws to make it easier to qualify for these federal funds. In 1975, Congress enacted a law forcing all states to enact a mandatory helmet in order to receive any federal transportation funds. The MRF and state motorcycle rights organizations around this country fought tirelessly during this time for the law to be overturned. Congress flip-flopped on the helmet law by striking down the 1975 law, then reinstating it in 1991. The MRF and the motorcycle rights organizations were finally successful in 1995 by overturning the federal mandatory helmet law.

We at the MRF have already communicated with our contact that we would be adamantly opposed to any changes to the language. This potential change could be viewed as an attempt to blackmail states into changing their current laws as a way to additionally qualify for these funds. While there is not any official draft in circulation for the next highway bill reauthorization, we will continue to remain on guard against attempts to add or implement such changes.

The motorcycle safety funds were first authorized in 2005 through the highway reauthorization known as SAFETEA-LU. The federal government began a dedicated state grants program in an attempt to reduce the number of single and multi-vehicle crashes involving motorcyclists. The program has continued to be authorized in the federal highway bill legislation and is currently still active in the current iteration known as the FAST ACT of 2015 which is set to expire in September 2020. Last week, we reported that NHTSA had released the fiscal year 2020 state grant totals for each of the National Priority Safety Programs. The \$4.2 million motorcycle safety grant program was divided between forty-three states and Puerto Rico. In fact, the motorcycle safety grant program only makes up 1.5% of the appropriation for this program. With over 8.5 million registered motorcycles on our nation's roadways, the federal government only spends on average \$0.49 per motorcycle.

We will keep you posted on this and other topics as lawmakers continue the process of drafting a new transportation and infrastructure package in 2020.

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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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INDEPENDENT CORNER

Interested in becoming more involved with Texas Abate? We are still looking for an Independent Rep. If you are interested in this position or have any questions, please contact your Assistant State Coordinator, Dino:

Email: dviles85@gmail.com

Phone: (903)624-1938

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



Texas Abate Confederation, Inc.
900 Fish Creek Drive
Arlington, TX 76018

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.

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

In Hope of Promoting a Better Relationship with the Public for Motorcycle Awareness.