



TEXAS TIDBITS

TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC

Edition II, Volume IV
July-August 2019

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Upcoming Events

STATE:

- **9/6-9/8/19** [State Rally](#)
General Member Meeting
Dad's Place -Bells, TX
- **11/02/19** MEETING, 1 pm
Mr. Porky's, Denton

ARLINGTON:

- **3rd Sunday at 12 noon**
VFW Post 6111
1200 W Harris Street
Arlington 76018
- **08/03/19** [Bothced Poker Run](#)
- **11/17/19** [Bikers Giving Back](#)

DENTON:

- **4th Sunday at 2:00 pm**
Mr. Porky's
8430 W University Drive
Denton 76207
- **11/16/19** [Toy Run](#)
- **12/14/19** [Christmas Party](#)

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
- **Oct (TBD)** [Real Fun Poker Run](#)
- **Nov (TBD)** [Freedom Run](#)
- **Dec (TBD)** [Christmas Party](#)

current topics >>>

MEMBERSHIP...

If you are a new member and have NOT received a "new member packet", please email membership@texasabate.com. As we recently underwent a major restructuring of our membership office, we want to be certain no one got "lost in the mix."

Please take a moment to help us report issues you want to know more about. Use the following link to complete a quick survey to assist us in improving our "Texas Tidbits" www.tinyurl.com/tattreader. This survey will take less than five (5) minutes. Ask questions or provide suggestions. This is YOUR newsletter! Tell us what you want to see.

POLITICS – *It's ALL Local* Nasty, Asst. Coordinator, Arlington

"ALL POLITICS ARE LOCAL"(Thomas "Tip" O'Neil)

I have quoted this for as long as I can remember. I've also said the dog catcher has more impact on your day to day life then the President. This my Brother and Sisters if so important to remember.

I'll give you some examples to confirm these statements. Also attempt to elaborate on our role, as activists, how essential and easy it is to access and participate in our local affairs. Many of these examples come from observation and personal experience.

Let's talk numbers. At the National level it takes large groups, often organized in large areas, which in turn often cost much in capital, and time. Examples, guns, healthcare, taxes, and many more. Billions are spent, the debates go on infinitum.

At the State level, all or much of the same applies. However, as we experienced with our signature issue, helmets, with grass root activism and years of self-education, and organization, it became easier. It took us years from Ted Lyons repeal passage to the passage reinstating our right to choose. Twelve years. No money to speak, against the two largest, organized, monied and entrenched lobbies at any level. The Medical and Insurance lobbies. A little easier to do compared to the many attempts at many of our issues at the Federal level.

Now, let's talk numbers again. Ever gone to a City Council Meeting? School Board? County Commissioners Meeting? You go immediately from a blip on the radar to a noticeable commodity. Especially if you're like me and dress as I normally dress (Biker culture) or my very favorite Blue Collar attire. You begin to stand out. If you go periodically and learn the issues and players, you become one of a handful of people with a direct line to influencing policy, taxes and direction. That out of the larger number (insert local population here). You are now a "mover and shaker." Face it, many of these meetings are sparsely attended. Especially if no earth-shattering issues are currently on the table. That's when you should, do the most important thing you can do as an activist, introduce yourself. I usually use the opportunity to make such introductions before, after, and during breaks in the meeting. Put a face to the name.

Really want some power? Work on your favorite's local election campaigns. Whoa! Now your important. You become connected, you have people's ear. You ARE NOT the masses, sitting on their couches at home. You, and I cannot stress it enough, are one of a small number with influence. Just in a couple of meetings. It works, I've done it.

(continued on page 3, "Politics")

Legislative Report

by: Skee Dodson, State Legislative Officer, Texas Abate Confederation, Inc.

I recently heard this riddle: “How do you spot a motorcyclist in the summer?” Answer: “He’s got bugs on his teeth.” This reminds me of the days when I rose my shovelhead – the good ‘ol days. I don’t mind the bugs anymore, they are part of summer – my favorite time of year for riding (especially when the sun goes down).

I bet many states are now out of session – as is Texas. First, let us say that Texas is extremely proud of Louisiana for becoming the 3rd state to pass a profiling bill. That is awesome! Congrats to all involved! In unity, Texas also pursued an anti-profiling bill this session, but were unsuccessful. We learned a few things and will try harder next session. Congrats to Missouri for finally passing a freedom of choice helmet bill that was long overdue! And congrats to all states that had a successful legislative session and for putting up a good fight (too many to mention here) – you got the job done!

Speaking of “getting the job done”, I would include Texas on that long list. On the 3rd day of our 86th Legislative session, Texas legislature filed a mandatory helmet bill for Texas motorcyclists – HB 748 (Neave; TX HD107). This made for a very long legislative session. The helmet bill was filed on a Friday and, by Monday, we had a call to action (CTA) out to flood the Capitol phone lines; a CTA to contact our reps by email, to contact the House Speaker, and to show up at Neave’s office on January 28th, during our Biker Day – and we did just that! This bill only got one co-sponsor and it was sent to the House Transportation Committee on a Friday (late in February); again, we flooded the phone lines and emailed the committee chair – Rep. Terry Canales. That is as far as this bill made it, but Texas Freedom Fighters stayed diligent throughout the entire session and NEVER let up. This bill was totally inappropriate for Texas as it would have removed ALL current transportation code helmet mandates – including requiring any reasonable suspicion for law enforcement to stop a motorcycle. We had a 2,000-signature petition ready, IF HB 748 was to make it to a hearing. I am proud to say that we did NOT need to attend any hearings!

Unfortunately, our two lane-sharing bills and our malfunctioning red-light bill did not make it to any hearing either. However, Governor Abbott did sign SB616 into law – moving the responsibilities of the basic motorcycle rider course, along with administration of the motorcycle safety and training, and the “Share the Road” program, from the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS), to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) – GREAT NEWS! HB 616 was sent to the governor the day after “Sine Die” and he signed it early. All rules, fees, policies, procedures, decisions, and forms related to the program (adopted by the former administrator – DPS) will be continued and will remain in effect until amended or replaced by the Licensing Commission or Licensing Department, by 09/01/20. This act will take effect on September 1, 2019.

Other acts that go into effect in September include: HB 1755, which makes titling an assembled vehicle in Texas LEGAL; and HB 3171, which re-classifies mopeds and provides for younger licensing requirements. The governor also passed legislation (HB 466) that lifted the ban on brass knuckles, clubs, and other self-defense items. Abbott also signed a bill that will allow hemp production and CBD sales in Texas, along with a bill allowing the sale of craft beer for home consumption. Several other significant bills that passed include a few for property tax relief, disaster relief, and school funding. Altogether, in both chambers, over 8,000 bills were sent to the governor, which is a new record (not necessarily one to brag about). Governor Abbott also vetoed approximately 50 bills that were sent to him – now that IS a record to brag about – lol!

I would say that the 86th Legislative session in Texas was an interesting one and anyone who paid attention will agree we learned a few things. One person, on the last day of open filing, can get a bill (re)filed; 100 phone calls to a representative in ONE DAY is enough to withdraw that bill (HB 4017), the day before it is scheduled for a hearing; and we learned that you can get a bill drafted a year before the session begins! This 86th session may be over, but Texas Freedom Fighters are already looking forward to the next session in 2021!

June 7th – 9th, the Texas Council of Clubs and Independents (Tx COC&I) held their annual State Rally in San Elizario, TX – near El Paso – and we were honored to attend! The speakers were quite informative, and a lot of first-time information was presented. Texas ABATE presented new information involving a case filed with the Texas State Auditor (Investigations & Auditing), revealing the filing of an “Abuse of Official Capacity by a State Agency” (DPS). Hopefully, this will return misdirected funds to our motorcycle safety and training fund (0501). During this COC&I State Rally we also learned that we are no longer known as the Confederation of Clubs and Independents; moving forward, we are the “Council of Clubs and Independents”. There are a lot of changes that will take place, but the regional operation of the COC&I is not changing. I learned, from a rally “attendee”, that the El Paso area alone has 62 active clubs – wow! He went on to tell me that they often meet, in unity, at the very place where we held the rally – in San Elizario, TX. This border town is quite interesting as it was once the county seat with an historic jail. San Elizario has the oldest main street in Texas and has a 350-year-old church right where the rally park area was. It was a 10-hour trip coming home – and we NEVER LEFT TEXAS!

Our rights in Texas are being challenged like never. We need to remind our fellow riders that we have motorcycle rights that are worth fighting for – and that those rights come with responsibilities! Stay hydrated my friends...

Ride safe, ride free. *Skeedaddy*

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We are endorsed by the National Council of Motorcyclists and are proud to be a member of the Texas Abate Confederation. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are not affiliated with the National Council of Motorcyclists or the National Council of Abate.

Link for Richard M. Lester:
<http://onabike.com/>

2020 Nominations

Corporation (State) Offices up for nominations in 2019: -
“Election notification for open Corporation positions will be reported in the Corporation newsletter published during the year’s first quarter. Nominations for open positions will be accepted from July 2019 through September 2019.”

Coordinator:

1. To oversee the operations of the organization, including Corporation level meetings, events and other functions. The Coordinator is required to direct the organization and maintain organizational cohesiveness.
2. The Coordinator is responsible for public relations and may designate an official spokesperson.
3. Chair all Corporation meetings and the annual general membership meeting.
4. Make all decisions, not requiring Board approval, to ensure continuous operation of the Corporation on a daily basis. The Coordinator is not authorized to obligate corporate funds or assets, sign contracts, exempt individuals or groups from any policies in the Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws without Board approval.
5. May only vote at Corporation meetings in the event of a tie.
6. May sign Corporation checks.
7. Authorized to make expenditures benefiting the Corporation, not exceeding \$250.00 annually.
8. Any such other duties that the Corporation shall require.

Secretary:

1. Record and maintain Corporation meeting minutes, and pertinent documents.
2. Work in conjunction with the Coordinator to establish meeting agendas and provide notification for every Corporation meeting to the Board and Corporation officers.
3. Maintain a current copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
4. May sign Corporation checks.

Legislative:

1. Direct the legislative and political goals of the Corporation, both state and federal.
2. Serve as the Corporation’s official representative to other Motorcycle Rights Organizations (MRO’s).
3. Attend MRO seminars.
 - a. Submit articles to the Corporation newsletter on all conferences attended.
 - b. Submit expense report with receipts to the Treasurer for reimbursement.
4. Maintain communications with Chapter Legislative officers.
5. Maintain current membership for the Corporation in federal and state MRO’s.

Politics... (continued)

Let me use some personal experiences, to illustrate. For some thirty-three years, I worked for the Arlington Independent School District in maintenance. I served on a Communication Committee for employees. For many years I was the Chair. Helped employees, worked on policy and I got on the Radar. I did everything I stated earlier. I got familiar. Now So there are these advisory groups. You this is something not many people know: All these local entities need help and advice. That’s where advisory committees come in. These are groups that advise in areas of specific issues that gather information and opinions that the Board of elected officials use to form policy, create future initiatives, and even develop budget considerations – that means taxes, YOUR TAXES.

You can be appointed by one of your new friends on the Boards or Councils, and even better, throw your name in a hat to serve. This is because you’re a known commodity, an active participant. One of, I stress again, of a very few.

Let’s see, in local education they are picking the Superintendent, local bond committee, boundary committee, and, my personal favorite, The Financial Futures Committee. Money, taxes, those who have the gold – make the rules. I did them all. As a member of the financial committee, we were tasked with advising how to make up a 25-million-dollar gap in the following year’s budget. This is in a very austere district. I, personally, made successful initiatives to defer a half million dollars in Football uniform purchases. With another member and the Transportation Director, devised a way to hold off millions of needed bus purchases by offsetting School starting times to utilize the existing fleet more efficiently. We managed to reduce the shortfall, as a group, to about ten million. That exhausted all our options.

Check the next issue for more information on how to get involved in local politics...

ask the experts >>>

Q: *Where do I send my questions?*

A: news@texasabate.com

Have questions about ABATE? Or riding in Texas? Or kid-friendly events? Or which shop to take your ride to? Or “biker-friendly” establishments? Email “Ask the Experts” at news@texasabate.com or you can snail-mail to “Ask the Experts” at Texas Abate Confederation, Inc., 900 Fish Creek Drive, Arlington, TX 76018

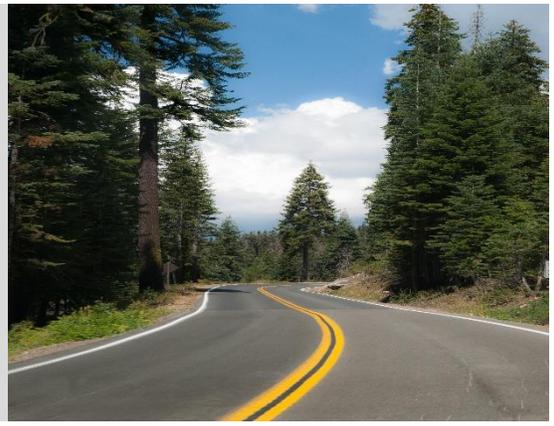


DID YOU KNOW:

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

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>



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Contact us at news@texasabate.com

www.texasabate.com

BO's Last Ride

On June 8th many of us Arlington ABATE founders, members, and supporters, said our final farewell to one the most loved, instrumental Chapter Founders ever. “No Show” Bo Lestock. A life member since the eighties, Bo was, for a time, the Chapter Security Officer.

Around forty-five of us traveled to Durango, Colorado, to take him on his last ride. The route was spectacular, from Durango to Silverton. His ashes were spread at Molas Pass. It was a long time for many of us “old timers” to ride together as we did in our group’s early days. This shows the devotion most of his friends have for a very special, bigger-than-life Brother. We, here in the Arlington Chapter, have some big shoes to fill. Ride in Peace, Brother Bo!



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.