



# TEXAS TIDBITS

TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC

Edition II, Volume VIII  
May - June 2020

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## Upcoming Events

### STATE:

- **06/13/20 MEETING**, 1 pm  
VFW Post 10460, Lake Dallas
- **09/11-09/13/20 State Rally**

### ARLINGTON:

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 12 noon**  
VFW Post 6111  
1200 W Harris Street  
Arlington 76018
- **Fun Run – POSTPONED**  
New Date TBA

### DENTON:

- **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 2:00 pm**  
Mr. Porky's  
8430 W University Drive  
Denton 76207

### LAKE CITIES:

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 1:00 pm**  
VFW Post 10460  
501 Thompson Drive  
Lake Dallas 75065

### TEXOMA:

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 1:00 pm**  
American Legion Post 62  
419 Crawford Street  
Denison 75020
- **06/12-06/14/20 [Old Fashion Rally](#)**

**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 >>>

# 2020 STATE OFFICER OPENINGS

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

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

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

## MRF NEWS

### Congress Working from Home?

Like most American workplaces, Congress is trying to adapt to our new normal. The Capitol Complex remains closed to the public, and Congress has pushed back its return to D.C. until early May. Most Congressional staff is working from home, and most lawmakers have returned to their home states.

One interesting fact is that both Senate and House rules require that lawmakers must physically be present to vote on legislation. As many of you have attended Bikers Inside the Beltway will remember, Members of Congress are often seeing scurrying from their offices to the House or Senate floors for votes. Last year, some of our members gave the "elevator pitch" to a Congressman heading to vote. By the time the ride was over, he had agreed to cosponsor our legislation.

If you haven't seen the cosponsor numbers change on some of our legislative priorities, this is also a product of the Congressional lockdown. To add a cosponsor to a bill, Congressional staff must physically submit a form on the floor when Congress is in session. With Congress gone and access to the floor strictly limited, adding cosponsors has been nearly impossible.

There are growing calls to change these rules and allow for some form of electronic voting or proxy voting. Yet, at the moment, these proposals have been rejected. Lawmakers that live within driving distance of Washington D.C. have been told to be ready to return to the Capitol on short notice if and when votes are required. What's considered driving distance to D.C.? Well, we at the MRF have members ride all the way from California to attend Bikers Insider the Beltway, so let's hope lawmakers aren't afraid of a long drive back to D.C. if needed.

### About Motorcycle Riders Foundation

*The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) provides leadership at the federal level for states' motorcyclists' rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs and individual riders. The MRF is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. The MRF is committed to be a national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle and works in conjunction with its partners to help educate elected officials and policymakers in Washington and beyond.*

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

Texas Gov. Abbott has issued orders, that state in part “Every person in Texas shall...minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact...until May 4<sup>th</sup>”. COVID-19 has reminded us that we live in a small world. This is a trying time for our Country - emotionally, financially, legally, and mentally. I bet that we will come out on the other side - not only stronger, but also smarter. If this Coronavirus taught us anything, it taught us that any unforeseen event like this could erupt at any time, and quickly disrupt our

lives and supply chains. It also taught us that an unforeseen event like this would disrupt any plans and preparation that were made in advance. It is very disappointing that so many of our motorcycle activities in Texas had to get cancelled, or postponed. For the foreseeable future, all motorcycle (legislative) events in Texas are cancelled.

The Texas Defenders Legislative Preparation class (March 21<sup>st</sup>) was an opportunity to learn about CTAs (call-to-actions), upcoming bills, and the 2021 legislative session - this class was cancelled. The TCOC&I (Reg. 3) meeting, planned for April 11<sup>th</sup> – was also cancelled. The 2020 COC&I State rally planned for April 17-19 was not cancelled – but is postponed until further notice. The Texas Motorcycle Safety Coalition (TMSC) quarterly meeting was held (virtually) online on April 16<sup>th</sup>. And unfortunately, the Texas ABATE State meeting (and prep session for the 87<sup>th</sup> legislative session), which was planned for April 4<sup>th</sup> – was also cancelled.

One thing I don’t think will be cancelled, or postponed, is the bicameral Texas 87<sup>th</sup> legislative session, which is approaching very quickly. We only have 6-8 months before opening day, and we definitely need to step up our efforts! The Texas 87<sup>th</sup> legislature begins on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and only convenes for a 140-day regular session. If you are a constituent in a Texas district that will have a runoff election on July 14th you have a golden opportunity, right now, to represent the motorcycling community in your district - and in our State. The July 14th primary runoff will have 7 republican State Representative seats on the ballot, and the democratic primary runoff will have 1 Senate seat and 6 State Representative seats on the ballot. By contacting all runoff candidates in your district, both democrats and republicans, you will undoubtedly pick a winner. If you are a constituent in one of these districts – Texas motorcyclists need your help!

Check who represents you here: <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>.

If you are reading this, please do this 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?

The next step is as easy as you make it.... it’s “Meet and Greet” (email) your Senator and Representative. Remind them that you vote, and that there are thousands of registered motorcycles in their district; also, let them know that you would like to schedule a meeting with them before

session begins – to talk about common-sense motorcycle legislation; Congress loves hearing from their constituents, but only from their constituents. Once you have an appointment, or an opportunity to get an appointment, let the rest of us know - many of us will be right there with you.

And finally, we need to realize that we will be losing a long-time champion of motorcycle rights in the Texas Senate. State Senator Kirk Watson (D-14) is retiring from the Senate -effective April 30, 2020. Sen. Watson is retiring to become the first dean of the University of Houston Hobby’s School of Public Affairs. Sen. Watson has been a motorcycle advocate for many sessions and has filed numerous motorcycle bills throughout the years. Last session Watson was on the Sunset Review Board that schooled the TDPS on motorcycle safety (I was there), and he even filed a bill to move their responsibility to another agency (TDLR). He had also filed a motorcycle lane-sharing bill during the last two sessions, and even a malfunctioning red-light bill in 2017 – neither of which had much luck passing legislature. Probably one of Watson’s best contributions to our Texas motorcycling community was during the 84<sup>th</sup> legislative session in 2015. Senator Watson introduced SB 754 – relating to the use of (our) money in the motorcycle safety fund. Senator Watson will be missed in the motorcycle community, and he will be hard to replace. Speaking of malfunctioning red-light bills, we will also be losing Rep. Bill Zedler (D-96), who wrote a red-light bill for us during the last 3 sessions. Last year we did not see a red-light bill from his office, and we thought we would. We visited him in Austin on the last day of open filing, in the afternoon – and we asked for one. Within minutes one was in queue to be filed; and before midnight, we had a bill number. Rep. Zedler will also be hard to replace, as will a few other representatives. It will be tough, this next session, and we have our work cut out for us; it will take all of us to participate. Let’s contact our legislators, and let’s build some new legislative relationships.



Let’s do this, and don’t hesitate to contact me at [skee.dodson@texasabate.com](mailto:skee.dodson@texasabate.com).

Stay safe – and wash your hands! *Skeedaddy*

# MEMBERSHIP

Robber Crowis, State Membership Officer, Texas Abate Confederation, Inc.

## 2020 NEW ABATE MEMBERS

Total New Members by Chapter & Independents

| CHAPTER      | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
|--------------|---------|----------|-------|
| ARLINGTON    | 0       | 0        | 0     |
| DENTON       | 1       | 0        | 0     |
| LAKE CITIES  | 3       | 3        | 5     |
| TEXOMA       | 2       | 0        | 3     |
| INDEPENDENTS | 1       | 0        | 0     |

you will not be considered past due and you will have till July 1, 2020 to pay your annual renewal dues. Upon payment of your membership renewal, your expiration date will still be one (1) year from your original 2020 expiration date. For example, if you expired on March 1, 2020 and you do not pay until July 1, 2020, your new expiration date will be March 1, 2021.

### AIL INSURANCE - \$3,000 AD&D BENEFIT

On April 18, 2020, a 2<sup>nd</sup> AIL insurance mass mailing went out to 94 of our ABATE members who did not return their insurance beneficiary card to AIL from the 1<sup>st</sup> insurance mass mailing sent in January 2020. One of my responsibilities as State Membership Officer of Texas ABATE is to ensure that our Texas ABATE members are returning their insurance beneficiary cards so that AIL has your current beneficiary designation on file. Also, the total amount of insurance benefit eligible to an ABATE member at no cost (this is currently \$3,000) is determined by the number of insurance beneficiary cards returned each year from the annual insurance mass mailing. Yes, once the insurance company receives your beneficiary card, an authorized agent will contact you to set up a meeting. Right now, with the COVID-19 stay at home/stay safe mandates in Texas, an agent will not be able to visit you in your home, but instead they will only be able to set up a meeting via the phone. In order to receive your certificate of insurance validating your beneficiary designation on file, you must go through the agent's presentation of other benefits they can offer. This does not mean you are obligated to purchase any insurance benefits, nor does it mean they can pressure or harass you in anyway. If you do not wish to listen to their presentation in person or via phone, then you will not be

## TEXAS ABATE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUES

Due to COVID-19 and the Texas Executive Orders issued by Governor Abbott, so many of us are finding it difficult to make ends meet and be able to take care of ourselves and our families. Texas ABATE would like to offer our Texas ABATE members some relief by deferring payment of the 2020 annual membership renewal dues until July 1, 2020. What this means is that any member who has expired in January through April 2020 or will be expiring in May or June 2020, you will not be considered past due and you will have till July 1, 2020 to pay your annual renewal dues. Upon payment of your membership renewal, your expiration date will still be one (1) year from your original 2020 expiration date. For example, if you expired on March 1, 2020 and you do not pay until July 1, 2020, your new expiration date will be March 1, 2021.

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I encourage you to return your beneficiary cards. In lieu of a beneficiary designation, should a claim be filed for this \$3,000 AD&D insurance due to an accidental death, payment will have to be made to your estate.

**Texoma ABATE**

# OLD FASHION RALLY

**JUNE 12 - 14, 2020**

**\$15**

PER PERSON FOR THE ENTIRE WEEKEND  
\$10 PER PERSON AFTER 8PM SATURDAY

**DAD'S DADS FARM**  
100 KERFOOT LN  
**BELLS TEXAS**

**Friday Night**  
**J & S Allstars Karaoke**



**Saturday Night 8pm**  
**LIVE ON STAGE**



Beard Contest  
 Field Games  
 Frozen T-Shirt Contest  
 Cool Down Contest  
 On-site Homemade Bikini Contest  
 50/50 Drawings  
 Vendors on site  
 ABATE Products available  
 Bike Show  
 Decorated Campsite Contest  
 Raffles  
**PRIZES for winners**

For more info or to reserve vendor spot call us at 580-768-1211 or 903-513-6538  
 NO weapons, pets or bad attitudes. Property Owner, Texas ABATE, it's Chapters, members and vendors not responsible for accidents

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## LAW TIGERS

MOTORCYCLE LAWYERS

Motorcycle Accident?  
Click Here.

[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.



## *final*thoughts...

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](mailto:news@texasabate.com)

[www.texasabate.com](http://www.texasabate.com)

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# MAY IS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH Please Drive Carefully

Arlington ABATE Chapter of Texas ABATE Confederation, Inc.



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.***