

COLUMBIA COUNTY ABATE  
Secretary's Minutes -Thursday, August 5th, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm at the Whitestone Café by President Karen Kittle. The pledge was recited, and President Karen thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. There were 31 members in attendance, including four officers.

Before the meeting officially started, member Jim Williams introduced Chris Gibson, whom he met at a recent BBQ meet and greet. Jim went through Mr. Gibson's bio and made the introduction. Mr. Gibson is an admirer of former president Reagan and has served 24+ years in the Army and National Guard. He is most interested in speaking out and protecting American freedoms, living life within a budget, holding government responsible to do the same. He feels the future of our country is in danger and that we can all band together to do better, and believes that the country can be fixed. He signed the petition being circulated regarding the state trooper motorcycle-only road blocks at tonight's meeting. Mr. Gibson is against the Patriot Act, and feels every American has the right to privacy, and believes in our freedoms. RE: flag amendment, he said those who choose to burn the American flag deserve our scorn; he believes in its' protection, and wants to be beat the incumbent in the upcoming elections.

Mr. Gibson thanked everyone for listening to him and asked for support. If members are interested in learning more about his platform, you can visit his website: [www.chrisgibsonforcongress.com](http://www.chrisgibsonforcongress.com) Mr. Gibson was thanked for attending the meeting and shook hands with the officers. Meeting then proceeded.

SECRETARY- MOTION #24-2010 – Motion was made by Pete with second by Mark to waive reading of the May minutes, with all in favor.

TREASURER - Treasurer Tricia Thibault gave the treasurer's report as follows: Beginning balance was \$5,161.07 with income of \$100.00 and expenses of \$427.88, leaving an ending balance of \$4,833.19. There is also \$241.23 in the savings (200 club account).

MEMBERSHIP - Report was given by Jenn Ross with the membership due as follows.

OUTSTANDING DUES

Tony Barry  
Dave Bratton  
Sandra Darrow  
Thomas Donlon  
Thomas Geno  
Robert Green  
Mike Krizar  
Melvin Lansing  
Laurel Northrup  
Buck Mason  
Gary Peck  
Tim Quigley  
Michael Rutkowski  
Erwin Schneider

Mark Wells  
Joe Winchester  
Jennifer Zola

AUG. RENEWALS

Nick Amoroso  
Mary DeSantis  
Earl Simpson  
Michael Super

SEPT. RENEWALS

Allen Archer  
Annie Barrett  
Rick Cort  
Paul Fasoldt  
Jeffrey Fumei  
Martin Hanlon

Matthew Hauser  
Tom Howard  
Thomas Hunt  
Harold Jensen  
Christopher Killeen  
Chris Kinnicutt  
Lynn Kratt  
Paul Krich  
Lee Lansing  
Dick Leavitt  
Barry Morehouse Sr.  
Paula Palleschi  
Rita Quirino  
Albert Schulze  
Gail Woods

LEGISLATIVE— In the absence of Prospector, Karen reported as follows by reading the following emailed statement: The Legislature still had not passed a budget, so no bills have moved. Prospector won't have contact with government until August 9. Special sessions regarding the budget have been called with no real progress, and legislators are not making appointments.

Assemblyman Bill Parment, the sponsor of the helmet reform bill, will not be seeking re-election this year, so Prospector is in the process of making a list of possible sponsors of the bill for next year. He will not be approaching anyone until after elections in case there are any changes, and he will be ready to do so in January 2011. He received a call from the legislator coordinator of ABATE of Illinois, and said they will be filing a "friend-of-the-court" brief in Federal Court on the road-block suit. He also spoke with Attorney Mitch Proner about sending some to testify on the effect of road-blocks on interstate commerce.

NEWSLETTER - Karen stated there is nothing to report.

PRODUCTS-- Jack said that products are available for the summer months, and he would bring them in after the meeting for those interested in purchasing. New colors for t-shirts will be purchased for next year.

The quilt was on display at tonight's meeting; everyone commented on how nice it was. Jack is collecting ticket money for the quilt raffle tonight and will hand out more tickets for those who want them.

SGT. of ARMS - Jack reported that everything's good, nothing to report.

ROAD CAPTAIN— Bob reported that the Mountain Run is all set for August 7, annual night run. The flyer is available in the newsletter. This run will leave the Plaza Diner at 6:00 pm. Karen asked if it was to be a poker run, and after short discussion, it was decided that it will be a poker run. All stops have been contacted and they are glad to have us back. Bob said it's 117.3 miles, and to take care riding in Schoharie County because of road conditions.

Bozo Run— This run will take place on Saturday, August 28, and start at the Plaza Diner, ending up at the Moose Lodge in Hudson. A flyer is included in the July news-letter. Member Jenn Ross asked about a stop at Lyons Lake, which could be done. Tony said there is a band donating their play-time at the ending stop at Moose Lodge.

Unfinished Business— Ghent Community Day will be held on October 2, (day before our toy run) where they have a parade, etc. our chapter was asked to participate in the parade with bikes and to have a booth set up if we wish. Karen asked if people were interested in participating in Community Day there were 6+ volunteers to help out with the booth. Karen will get in touch with Matt Torrey and have more information at the next meeting. All are welcome to ride in the parade.

New Business Karen stated that because of the ABATE money issues at state level, a vote has been brought back to the chapters from the last state chapter meeting they want to raise money by increasing member dues by \$5, or eliminate the membership incentive. A member asked if there has been misappropriation of money, and Pete stated there was not. At present, the state kicks back \$5 per person to each chapter in dues money. There was general consensus at the meeting that members do not want the dues raised, nor do they want to get rid of the membership incentive. Columbia chapter votes no on both issues.

Pete spoke about the money issues and expenses, much of it being for accounting, lawyers, meeting hall(s) fees and conventions. He said the state newsletter is the "killer expense and that it's a catch 22 situation". The State organization (ABATE) is required by the Bylaws to put out a newsletter, and approximately 2800 are sent out. It would be very helpful to the state if members that could receive the newsletter by email would do so rather than the hard copy mailing.. Pete went on to say the next meeting is August 21 in Binghamton, and that all state meetings are open to anyone/ everyone.. Emails can be provided to Pete or Karen if you want the state newsletter emailed instead of sent by mail.

Member Bob DiRuzzio asked what the attorneys do for us. Pete said they review the By-laws continuously for wording in order to protect members rights, and they also handle litigation matters, one being the impeachment of former President Tim Werder. He also said that Attorney Mitch Proner was handling the road-block and unlawful motorcycle stops on a pro-bono basis.

Karen further mentioned that our next chapter meeting will be the first round for nominations to the election of officers for 2011.

Roddy mentioned a benefit ride for the Demarest family, who recently lost everything to a house fire. There will be 4 bands, vendors, food and ice cream available at the ending location. Flyers were available at tonight's meeting.

Nick stated that the Hogs for Hospice run is Sunday, August 22. Columbia County has had the biggest group in attendance for the last 5 years, and there are other groups out there who want to take that recognition away from us. He would like Columbia County to line up closer to the 11:00 registration time.

Karen mentioned that the sign-up sheet for the ABATE booth detail is being circulated, and those interested in working the booth to please sign up. She has some fair tickets available for volunteers.

There being no other business to come before the meeting, **MOTION #25-2010** made by Mark to adjourn with second, with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. With Prospector's absence, there was no PAC hat collection.

Respectfully submitted, Zandra Boice, Secretary