

ABATE of New York, Inc.
State Board Meeting
Owego, New York
January 16, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by Roadkill. All stood and gave the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call of Officers present was taken: Pres., Vice Pres., Treasurer, Secretary, Leg. Coord., PB Relations, Region A Coord., Region C Coord., Region D Coord., Region E Coord.. The Sgt. @ Arms was excused.

Motion #B01-09 made by Michael with a 2nd to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. Unanimous

Roadkill started off the meeting by presenting certificates of appreciation to 2008 Board Members who were not at the last meeting. Pam received hers as Legislative Coordinator and Freedom Writer Newsletter Editor. Certificates will be mailed to Shawn Fenner previous Region A Coord., and to Ralph Wagonblott organizer of the 2008 Freedom Rally.

Correspondence:

Roadkill briefly detailed the 12/29/08 meeting he and the Legislative Coordinator attended in lower Manhattan with NYC 1st District Councilman Alan J. Gerson, regarding the INT.416-A NYC stock exhaust legislation, before reading his outgoing correspondence thanking Mr. Gerson for the meeting. In addition to ABATE's representation by Roadkill and George, the meeting was also attended by several motorcyclists from differing groups to present an informed cross-section of the riding public. This piece of Legislation has apparently been deferred for more thought.

Roadkill read a piece of internal board correspondence regarding authorization to reprint published content. Public Relations Suzi Q then stated that she was informed we would need permission from the Democrat and Chronicle to reprint any of their articles.

Roadkill read Lewis County's message that they will not be attending the meeting or Seminar due to a family-related event, and that we're to please mail all material to the President or give to Doc if he attends.

Roadkill read MRF President Dave Dwyer's 12/26/08 letter dated stating that SMRO Leaders are appealing for an increase in membership to help strengthen our abilities in being effective to protect our rights. Beth as the assistant to our MRF Rep. has been contacting lapsed New York MRF members giving them updated information in the hopes that they might return to the MRF. She is also supplying them information about ABATE of NY, Inc. if they request it.

Roadkill asked if anyone knew what VMT stands for. Not many of us knew. Roadkill explained that this stands for Vehicle Mileage Taxation. What this means is that there is currently conversations going on about the high taxation of fuel products, and possibly being able to lower the tax on these products, because of their steady increase. BUT, in exchange there would be a VMT put into place that will affect all motor vehicles. This would be accomplished by taxing vehicles each time they are required to have their inspection done, then you would be taxed on the amount of your mileage from the last time it was inspected to the current inspection. No amount of % of taxation has been discussed at this time.

On 1/8/09 Karen Kittle from Columbia County submitted a flyer asking if it was appropriate for them to use. It was viewed by the Board and she was given the OK.

Also on 1/8/09 Roadkill received an e-mail from Michael Grasby that he had received from Doug Schilling. Roadkill stated that this is spam from AFLAC. This apparently is the same people who contacted us last year, and Roadkill offered them the opportunity to give us a presentation but they never responded. They have now spammed some ABATE officers from public information on our state ABATE website.

Roadkill read a letter from Mike Cavuoto about the tri-folds; he stated he would have delivered them to Beth if he had known about them. He also inquired about the membership with Sam's Club. He apparently had a problem at his local Sam's club. He was advised that this is not a free membership, but as an organization we qualify for a different rate than the person off the street. Chris will also follow up with Sam's Club on this.

Letter dated 1/14/09 from Terry Erler, Onondaga County, asking us to print a letter written by Carmella Brown in our next Newsletter. This was turned over to Pam.

We received communication from CCMS (Concerned Citizens for Motor Safety). They would like to see groups of clubs and organizations rally support for NYC in their fight against INT416-A. The petition has been sent out, it is "Crush 416-A not our Motorcycles"

Roadkill heard from one of the attorney's he had contacted about representing us in civil litigation. Mr. Rabin from Alexander & Catalano was unable to attend the meeting on 12/21/08, but he would like to reschedule.

Presidents Report:

Thanks to everyone for their support of him as President for another year.

Vice Presidents Report:

Beth would like to meet with the contract committee after the Seminar and before dinner on Saturday. At 4:30 meet with Beth in the lounge.

State Party – will report at next State Chapter Meeting.

Tax status still in the works.

Freedom Rally – State Office Manager Chris has filed the paperwork with Albany. The flyers have been printed, they are 2 sided, and will be handed out at the Seminar to all Chapters. Ralph reported that Holy Cow can have 2 latrines on site at a cost of \$400.00, the State Board has already voted no on a band due to the cost involved. Ralph inquired about a sound system, Oneida and N. Ulster both stated that they have sound systems available, Ralph will get with them. Ralph also asked about shirts and pins, he was told that this was already an item in the budget.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion #B02-09 made by Beth with a 2nd that in order for a chapter to receive their incentive payment, they must attend 75% of the State Chapter Meetings to receive it (3 out of 4 annual meetings). Unanimous

Motion #B03-09 made by Roadkill with a 2nd to allow the offset of the 2009 Budget to reflect a \$68.00 over payment on the Chapter incentive. Unanimous

Pete also reminded all Regional Coordinators that they are allowed fuel reimbursement when they attend state meetings. The only exception is Region D, due to time and distance they also receive payment for 1 nights lodging if necessary.

Motion #B04-09 made by Michael with a 2nd to pay the bills. Carried, with a vote of 9 yes and 1 abstain.

Legislative Coordinator Report:

George spoke on the fact that we had voted for a new ad to be placed in the Legislative paper, but he has yet to see it done. When this issue was addressed by Roadkill, as to why it had not yet been done, George was upset with the answer he received and he walked out of the room.

Sgt. at Arms Report:

Marty has been excused due to his time needed at the Javits Center Show.

Secretary's Report:

Nothing at this time

Region A Coord. – Michael Grasby (Finger Lakes)

He stated that he had sent e-mails to each of the Chapters in his region asking them to meet with him at the Seminar for a brief meeting. He had heard from all but Buff-Erie & Chautauqua. He will use this time as their Region A meeting for January. He is also going to discuss with them the possibility of making a change of the day and time for the meetings.

Region C Coord. – Keith Borland (Oswego)

He also e-mailed all the Presidents in his region with information. Would like to check into doing TV promos. He as yet has heard no response. Will hold meeting in Onondaga's territory.

Region D Coord. – Jim Barr (Long Island)

Jim started by thanking Chris for the membership list. He is checking into the old LI ABATE website. Roadkill stated that it had been handed over to Raybud, who changed the log in and the password. This is still being worked out. During December the Public Safety Commission stated that were being given \$25,000.00 to implement a 4 stop program in 2009. Ten days later there was a 6 member committee meeting about this issue, they spoke with ABATE of Long Island about this and ABATE sent a letter to 3 radio stations and 5 TV stations, there were any members present at this public meeting. Chief Ponzo has reduced the checks to 1 random check during 2009. These will only be random stops, no group pullovers. Of course there will be the usual stops for the obvious violations that occur. Long Island is waiting for this to be put in writing. They have promised selective enforcement and only 1 random check.

Jim has spoken with many politicians recently. And he has been approached for an interview in Full Throttle magazine. It was suggested that he also talk with Suzie Q about possible money for PSA's.

Jim was also reminded that we have a reimbursement program for any advertising they might plan, which would have to be approved by the Board.

Jim mentioned that he was on the Tribute Cruise with Marty, and they had a great time. They also had a group photo done with the Marshall Tucker Band. And that ABATE was given an awesome reception.

Region E Coord. – Gary Myers (N. Ulster)

Gary stated that he is retired so he plans on attending all meetings. It will be learn as he goes process.

State Newsletter:

Reminded everyone that the deadline for the newsletter is February 1st.

Public Relations:

Reminder: that before doing a reprint of any article to be sure to get the publishers permission in writing.

Suzie thanked Beth for passing on great information to her on the products. She is still checking into the kick stand pucks.

Thanks to Roadkill for the press release he sent out.

Suzie has many contacts with several publications and several magazines are going to give us space. Roadkill mentioned that he's waived offered compensation for his column in Never Ending Roads in lieu of an ABATE ad placement.

State Office Manager's report:

Chris passed out statistics and comparisons for all chapters.

Motion #B05-09 made by Michael with a 2nd to waive the Chapter dues for 2009. Unanimous

Motion #B06-09 made by Roadkill with a 2nd to give Onondaga the booth rental fee for Rumble & Roar. Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Kathy A. Grasby
State Secretary