

ABATE OF NEW YORK, INC.
State Board Prep Meeting
Binghamton, NY
February 21, 2009

The Meeting was called to order at Noon. All stood and gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll call of officers was taken: Pres., Vice Pres., Secretary, Legislative Coord., Public Relations Coord., Region A, Region C, Region E were all present. Absent were the Treasurer (excused), and Region D (excused). **SAA EXCUSED**

Motion #B07-09 made by Michael with a 2nd to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as oriented and distributed. Unanimous

Correspondence:

We received a letter from the MRF thanking us for continuing our sustaining membership and a Certificate of such.

Attorney Rabin had planned on attending one of our prior board meetings, but he was involved in an accident and was unable to be here. We have heard nothing from him since. We also received a letter submitted by Attorney Latino with his written proposal. This letter will be included with the minutes.

Motion #B08-09 made by Kathy to table the letter from Latino.

The law office of Wilkie and Graff from Kingston were brought up by Gary, as a possible choice. Roadkill will send a follow-up letter to Mr. Rabin.

A letter was received from Dave Dwyer at the MRF recommending annual reaffirmation of SMRO MRF Reps and Asst. Reps. with a request for a confirmation letter from the SMROs. Roadkill reminded everyone that we recently stated the expectations of anyone representing us to the MRF, and it's felt that this is one result of that effort. Our response to the MRF will include the motion wherein we stated our expectations.

Following discussion, **Motion #B09-09** made by Roadkill with a 2nd that we recommend to Prospector to remove Bob Bancroft as an Assistant. Carried with 2 abstain.

On INT-416A Legislation from NYC one of the co-sponsors John Liu has pulled his sponsorship. Tonya feels that we should send a letter of thanks. Roadkill read the letters he faxed to both Liu's District and City Council offices on behalf of the membership, and recommended Chapters and members quickly follow suit. Along with his thanks from the organization, Roadkill asked Mr. Liu if he would try to sway his fellow constituents.

President's Report:

Following Roadkill's actions, Douglas Schilling, representing himself as AFLAK has retracted his on-line statement bashing ABATE of NY.

Passed by Congress was the "Consumer Product Safety Act" concerning lead content in toys, bikes, motocross bikes, etc. Anything 85cc and below are illegal to sell, own or drive. You also can not buy parts for any of these motor conveyances. Discussion followed regarding a press release in the matter.

President Obama's administration has declared that he won't resort to VMT (Vehicle Mileage Taxation) to make up for the massive looming shortfall in transportation infrastructure funding caused by the drastic drop in gasoline tax revenues. A Blue Ribbon panel commission report, however, is due this week, and data are available justifying its introduction, at least in certain areas. Don't expect this to be the last on this issue. Also bikes are now included in the Economic Stimulus Bill. Go buy if you can.

ABATE needs to review the current NYS rider training transition that's occurring, and take a stand in the matter because of purported concerns. We'd previously reported to the membership that training mandates were under consideration. Now, with the rider training contract newly awarded to the MSF, the gist of which is reportedly still evolving, there are also rumors of elimination of insurance reductions and road test waivers. It was suggested that we should send a letter arguing ABATE's stand in the matter to the DMV & the MSF. We want to know what can be done to retain benefits, not lose them.

Vice President's Report:

Beth will give her report at the State Chapter Meeting.

Motion #B10-09 made by Beth with a 2nd to pay the event cost for Beast of the East if group rate is available, and that no more than 4 people per chapter are to attend. Carried and 1 abstain

Legislative Coordinator's Report:

George reported that MSF put their contract into NYS last June for the motorcycle training course. With finances the way they are this may be one reason why the contract has not been finalized as yet. George will give his report during the State Chapter meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's budget was submitted by Roadkill. We voted at the State Chapter meeting in November to accept the Proposed Budget for 2009. Pete also suggested we should slow down on our spending during the winter months.

George suggested that we invite Jeff Hennie from the MRF to an organizational meeting in NYC with State Senate Majority Leader Malcolm Smith. Pam noted that this type of item is in the Legislative budget.

Public Relations Report:

Suzi has been doing a lot of research on a driver's education program. She was going to order the MSF kit, but it is very expensive. She is attempting to write our own program, but doing so with caution so as to not reference any copyrighted material.

Yard signs can be ordered now at a cost of \$2605.36 for 500 signs. Kick stand pucks are in the works, along with pens and key chains. Suzi made the decision that we need the new yard signs before the other items, since we are currently out of yard signs.

Motion #B11-09 made by Suzi Q. with a 2nd to approve the quote from New Life Printers of \$2605.36 for the purchase of new Yard Signs. Unanimous

Regional Coordinators Reports:

Region A – later

Region C – later

Region E – later

Region D – excused

Sgt at Arms:

Excused – Michael filling in

State Office Manager's Report:

Chris handed out a report to the Board. She also informed all of us that no one gets a full membership list. This is confidential information and she is the only one with all the records. Also, a reminder that her contracts expires soon.

Motion #B12-09 made by Roadkill with a 2nd for a big round of Thanks to Chris for all her hard work this past year. Unanimous

Committee Reports:

Contracts – Pete’s is on hold, Chris’s next Board Meeting and Pam’s next Board Meeting.

State Party – discuss at State Chapter Meeting

State Seminar – will be at the Treadway Inn in Owego in 2010.

By-Law Committee – all Board members should be on this committee.

Motion #B13-09 made by Roadkill with a 2nd that Pam be the Chairperson for the By-Law Committee.

Unanimous

Committee Report cont’d:

On the tax status Beth would like to hold off until we get the bill for the tax audit fee.

Newsletter: Nothing

Old Business: Nothing

New Business:

Beth would like to develop a Strategic Plan; she will bring her ideas to the next Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:31pm.

Kathy A. Grasby

State Secretary