

ABATE of New York, Inc.  
State Board Meeting  
Binghamton, New York  
September 19, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 10:17 AM by President Beth Gorman. All stood and gave the pledge to the Flag.

Roll call was taken: Present; President, Treasurer, Secretary, Leg. Coord, Sgt. @ Arms, Reg. A Coord, Reg. C Coord, Reg. D Coord. Excused: Vice President, Absent: Reg. E Coord.

**Motion #B33-10** made by Michael<sup>2nd</sup> by Tanya to waive the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. Roll call vote as follows: 7 yes, 1 abstain motion carried

**Correspondence:** Beth has received a letter from a gentleman in Albany. He and 1 other person are interested in forming a Chapter in Albany. Beth will get in touch with the Regional Coordinator for Region E and have him either get in touch with this gentleman or a Chapter near there who can help them get a Chapter started. He did give Beth the names of 2 people who are members already, and Beth confirmed through the State Office Manager that these people are members-at-large. However, this gentleman is not currently a member of ABATE at all.

Beth also reported on a letter received by Chris at the State Office. A member of Long Island Chapter wrote Chris asking for a waiver of her dues, due to hardships financially. Apparently she has been involved in an accident in which she was badly injured, while riding her motorcycle. She enjoys many of the ABATE functions, but has been unable to attend since her accident. She is asking for a waiver of dues for this year if possible. Jim Barr the President of the LI Chapter has been contacted.

Beth has had numerous conversations and e-mails from a gentleman from the Cortland area. He lives in the Cortland-Chenango area and is a rider with the Patriot Guard as well as other organizations.. They hold a Bike Nite on Wednesday nights at Gilligan's Ice Cream, and is wondering why Cortland-Chenango does not take a booth at their event. Apparently there is no charge for booth space. He is also questioning why Cortland-Chenango holds their event on the same night, but right up the road at a local bar. Beth has contacted Cort-Chen to get their response to this, but no one has as of yet answered her. Tom Alton spoke that he will go to their next meeting to find out what is going on. Beth reminded everyone that she is not upset with Cort-Chen, but that she would like their perspective on this whole situation.

Beth also received a letter from The Legislative Gazette on what is our decision about advertising in the paper. Beth advised her that we will not continue the contract at this time. But, that we would still like to continue the opportunity in the future.

**President's Report:** From Monroe County – the Greece PD according to an interview done with Chief Todd Baxter were going to start holding motorcycle only check points, because of several complaints about noise from too loud motorcycles. Since then there have been several interviews with Beth, as President of ABATE and as well as a member of the Monroe County Chapter. Also, there were interviews done with Eric Carlston, President of Monroe ABATE Chapter as well as a local bike shop. They were also interviewed at the Hamlin Bike Show. Apparently there was also a discussion on WCMF 96.5 about this issue, and Beth was informed by someone who had heard this. Beth then did an interview with WCMF and when they ran it on their station, there were some misquotes, including the statement that ABATE was going to sue the Greece PD. Beth immediately contacted WCMF about this, since it was never said. Beth also brought out the issue of non use of a sound meter during these check points and what the Federal Guidelines are for this. After all this Beth was contacted by Todd Baxter the Greece PD Chief and a meeting was arranged for Friday 9/17/10 with Mr. Baxter, Beth, George and Eric. This turned out to be a very productive 2 hour lunch/meeting. The Greece PD has agreed to not do the check points for sound; however they will still be pulling motorcycles over if they appear to be too loud and check them for modifications, but they will not be issuing tickets for

sound. They also agreed that if you are ticketed for sound or modification, if you return within 24 hours with either documentation that your bike is not modified or with a proper sound level check that your bike is not too loud, and then they will dismiss the ticket. Beth, Eric and George have arranged for a Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Event to be held in conjunction with a Safety Event that is being held at a local car dealership along with the Greece PD. This will be held on October 2, 2010. This will be similar to an event that Ontario County ABATE did a couple years ago. This issue brought us a lot of publicity and Beth has received interest from several other groups. ABATE was contacted via e-mail a group in the Genesee County area that are interested in having their bikes sound checked.

**Treasurer's Report:** Deb read the report that has been distributed to the Board members. With the \$5.00 increase in annual dues, do we need to change the scale for a lifetime members fees. Also, do we need to reconsider the 20% incentive fee paid to the chapters each year? Maybe, this amount of percentage needs to be lowered. It was asked if we can do anything to raise monies for ABATE of NY, Inc? It was discussed that this is why we created The Foundation; however, most of the monies raised must go to The Foundation itself. All Chapters are reminded to look over the information provided by Deb in her Proposed Budget for 2011 and make informed decisions about this new budget to keep from depleting the funds. They will be voting on their new 2011 Budget in November. Deb also reminded everyone that if we do not react now, that by the year 2014 ABATE of NY Inc will no longer be in business. Kathy also, questioned the fact that we are not generating anywhere the advertising income that we have had in previous years. Stuart Nichols is paid a percentage, 20% for every \$100.00. It was provided by Tanya that if it is a repeat customer then maybe we need to reduce the amount of % paid, and that the 20% should be paid for new accounts acquired. This is something that should be considered for next year.

**Motion #B34-10** made by Kathy 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills. Unanimous

As a side note Tom reported that he has been in contact with Gary Myers, he is doing as well as expected. With the new treatments he has been receiving he has possibly extended his time expectancy to sometime next summer. Anyone out there please contact him if you are so inclined, he would love to hear from anyone.

**Legislative Coordinator's Report:**

**Motion #B35-10** made by George 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael that we back Carl Paladino for Governor of NYS. Unanimous

There are ongoing problems with the EPA. They want to give away the motorcycle regulating to the European Union. George plans on going to the Meeting of the Minds about this, because they are going to have to be the ones to fight this. The NYSPD case over the roadblocks will be going to court on October 29<sup>th</sup> in the Town of Tyre. George also has an appointment next week with Senator Nozzolio from that District, he is also an attorney and to see if he might consider representing people over the helmet issue, pro bono.

Another thing that George would like to see be done is that when Regional Meetings are held that time be devoted to Legislation. The regions can feel free to open this to others as well, not just ABATE members. Another consideration George would like to see looked at is to change our motto from "Dedicated to Freedom of the Road", to "**Dedicated to Freedom**". He would like this to be discussed with the Chapters. Also, at the Meeting of the Minds, he will be discussing the fact that the National Highway Safety Commission dedicated \$375,000.00 to" New York style "motorcycle safety education.

**Region A Coordinator:** Next Regional meeting will be in Medina on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Beth has minutes from last Regional meeting, since she stood in for Michael.

**(Reminder from Beth to all Regional Coordinators: please contact all of your Chapters and remind them they need to be at their next meeting, or send someone from their Chapter as a**

**proxy. Otherwise, they will not be considered “In Good Standing” per the By-Laws and unable to vote at their November meeting. Please keep Beth informed.)**

**Region C Coordinator:** Cayuga Chapter held a run on Saturday 9/18 to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. They raised \$500.00 for this worthy cause. Everything seems to be moving along well in **C-nic Region**, but he has not heard anything from the Syracuse Chapter. Tom had not been informed if their VP has stepped up to the President’s position. Beth informed Tom that he had, and that there had been some concern as to his membership being current, but that has also been resolved. Apparently they have not been responding to Tom. Beth will get in contact with them about this and find out when their next meeting is and see if she can get this resolved. Their next scheduled meeting should on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in October at 10AM. Tom also has other Chapters that have not been to Regional meetings either, he has contacted them, but they are going to have to make a more concerned effort to be there. Onondaga won the Horseshoe Tournament from Oswego. They had a good turnout. The Region is still stable membership wise, and he is happy with how everything is going.

**Region D Coordinator:** We need to start thinking about the Javits Center Show. New Jersey ABATE has committed to splitting the cost with New York ABATE. Tanya is also working on getting Conn. and PA to join in, which would mean a 4 way split. This would be a great cost saver for us. It would also be great if other Chapters from around the state of NY would get involved. The more participation the better, she would like to see some of us come to NYC to be seen and recognized on the Today Show, Good Morning America, etc. The show at the Javits will be held on January 21, 22, 23, 2011. They are looking for suggestions for the show. Mitch Proner is giving his support along with NJ. Tanya would also like to have lots of literature, PR items and tri-folds available, with a suggestion that we do the tri-folds in black and white instead of in color, to cut down on the cost of printing. Brooklyn Chapter is back on their way to being back on their feet. Tanya is walking both Brooklyn Alliance and Manhattan Alliance through their banking issues. Dev from Brooklyn Alliance is starting a membership drive as of today. They have set up at various locations, and are going to other clubs who have expressed interest in ABATE, to try to bring in new members. Their goal is 100 people per week. On All Riders Radio there was a challenge put out to Social Clubs to encourage they join our fight for Freedom of the Road. This worked great in Chicago and NJ, and Tanya would like to see the same thing done here in NY. All Riders Radio is an internet show, done on Wednesdays at 9PM, the site is allridersradio.com and you can dial in also at 917-887-2871. This week on the show they will be discussing the Rico Act.

**Sgt. @ Arms:** Vacation was great, nothing else new.

Tanya inquired the Governors Traffic Safety Symposium at Grand Island, NY is anyone going? Beth stated that she hadn’t heard anything about it. It is their yearly meeting and it will be held on October 17-20. ABATE needs to make a showing, it would cost us for a booth, but we could be active at the meetings. Registration fee is \$25.00 to \$30.00 she believes. George would gladly give up money from his legislative fund to finance this. Tanya would like to see the people that met with the DMV in Albany at the Freedom Rally participate in this.

**Motion #B36-10** made by Tanya 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy that we spend part of the Legislative Budget to participate in the Governors Traffic Safety Symposium on Oct. 17-20 for ABATE members – for the entrance fee. Unanimous

The contact person going to this needs to get in touch Tanya.

**Newsletter Editor’s Report:** RIT was late again. Pam also feels that all Regional Coordinators should submit something to the Newsletter, besides just Michael. Tell people what is going on your Region, what is going on with your Chapters. Next newsletter deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup>. Pam has been checking around on prices, but no one wants to do it for less than what we are paying now. There was

also a discussion about the fact that we are currently paying for an additional 200 copies of the newsletter to be sent to Prospector. At Prospectors last report he stated that so far only 1 Chapter has asked for any extra copies. He now has the extras sitting in his garage unused. It is the feelings of the Board that this needs to be discussed at the next Chapter meeting. Tanya is also agreeable to taking any extras that Prospector currently has to use at the Javits Center Show in January. Beth will contact him about bringing the Newsletters to the State Chapter Meeting in November.

**State Office Manager's Report:** Chris reports a 2.3% increase since the beginning of this year. For all Regional Coordinators please review your reports she sends out to make sure that officers in your Chapters are current members.

**Committee Reports:**

Contracts – will be done by next month. Beth is working on contacting Stuart in regards to creating a contract along with Pam.

By-Laws – committee will meet after the Board Meeting.

Freedom Rally – George would like to see us hire a band to play 10-2 on Monday in Albany. His suggestion would be the Lustre Kings out of Albany. Pam thinks we should have a Safety & Awareness Tri-fold to use at the Freedom Rally.

State Seminar – still looking to see if Mitch Proner is available to come, and Ben Rabin to give a how to Lobby 101 introduction. Also looking for someone to discuss grant writing and another individual possibly from the DMV. There will also be a Silent Auction at the dinner, so she is looking for donations. The dates are January 14, 15, & 16, 2011 at the Owego Treadway Inn. The usual meetings are going to be scheduled. No, George will not be in a broom closet again this year. We currently do not have anything for Public Relations.

**Motion #B37-10** made by Beth 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom that ABATE of NY cover 1 nights room stay at the State Seminar and the Board Officer pays the 2<sup>nd</sup> nights stay. There was much discussion on this subject, pro and con. Tanya asked that the motion be tabled until such time as the Board decides as to whether the meeting held on Friday night is mandatory. Beth stated that the Friday night meeting is not and has never been considered a mandatory meeting. Motion by Michael to put the motion back on the table, at this time Beth rescinded her motion. Let it be noted that Tom did not rescind his 2<sup>nd</sup>, therefore the motion fails.

**Motion #B38-10** made by Beth 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tanya to make the January State Board Meeting a mandatory meeting on Friday night for 2011. Roll call vote 7 yes, 1 no, motion carried.

**Motion #B39-10** made by Beth 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pete that ABATE of NY will cover 50% of room expense for State Seminar for the State Board Officers. Roll call vote 4 yes, 4 no, motion failed.

**Old Business:** Tom would like us to look at the confusion of majority when voting. This in particular would pertain to the Chapter votes during their State Chapter meetings. We need further clarification to this when we are writing the new By-Laws. This needs to be more simply defined. Tom is referring to a section that he read in Roberts Rules of Order.

**New Business:** Beth was notified that the President, Vice President and Treasurer should be bonded. George contacted our insurance agency, and they have taken care of this issue by securing a bond for all three of them.

**Motion #B40-10** made by George 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael to pay \$322.00 to Ron Bajorek Agency to bond the President, Vice President and Treasurer of ABATE of NY, as per our By-Laws. Unanimous  
This will be an item that needs to be included in the budget in the future.

The bonding of the Chapter Treasurer's is another issue that needs to be addressed when rewriting the By-Laws. Will George please check into what the cost would be to have a blanket bond covering all treasurers, Chapter & State?

There appeared an e-mail on Rochester Rides and to others from Tim Werder questioning motion #M06-10. He gave his opinion to the fact that the President had cast a deciding vote on a Chapter motion. Beth's response was that if he has a concern, then he should have his Chapter representative bring this up at a State Chapter meeting. She also reminded him that the By-Laws do not specify on a tie breaker vote. At this point this cannot be handled on a Board level, but it will be addressed at the State Chapter meeting if it is brought up.

At this time (1:35) the Board attempted to adjourn, but was reminded that they had 2 applications for the State Treasury Manager to consider an interview for.

At this time the State Board interviewed Deb Trask, our State Treasurer. This interview was done with the other applicant out of the room. After Deb, the Board then interviewed Michael Grasby; this was also done with Deb out of the room.

The Board then decided to vote on the 2 applicants for the position of State Treasury Manager. Congratulations to Michael Grasby as the new State Treasury Manager. He will be taking over for Pete Smith as of January 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

Kathy A. Grasby  
State Secretary