

ABATE of New York, Inc.
State Board Meeting
Binghamton, New York
March 21, 2010

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

Roll call was taken all Board members were present with the exception of the State Secretary (excused), Sgt. at Arms (stepped down), Region E (excused), and Public Relations (absent). With a quorum being present they proceeded with business.

Motion made by Pete 2nd by Michael to waive the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. Unanimous

Correspondence & Presidents Report: Beth read a letter from Joe Scarfo. In his letter he explained that he had attended the Super Swap for the 1st time and was very impressed. He is also attempting to get the city of Babylon to bring back the tradition of putting up Motorcycle Safety signs. Great work Joe.

Beth read a letter from Thunder Roads Magazine. They are a new & upcoming magazine and a supporter of ABATE.

Beth has been in touch with Ben Rabin and he is sending her a new hard copy of the contract that ABATE will sign with him to represent us against NYS for the missing \$552,000.00.

George stated that he had been contacted by Mitch Proner. Mitch was wondering why we never asked him to be our legal counsel in civil matters. A letter will be sent to Mitch with our apologies for the oversight. We do know that he is currently handling the class action suit involving the Motorcycle Only Stops. It was also noted that Mitch is the NCOM attorney and has been for several years.

Gary Myers sent a letter of resignation to Beth. He is stepping down as Sgt. at Arms for health reasons. A letter will go out to both of the previous candidates for this position to see if either one or both of them are still interested.

Beth received a letter from F. Larson, requesting yard signs. She has forwarded this on to Ralph.

Tom asked about the Motorcycle Stopping Program that is being shown all over NYS. This is the program that was developed by a NYS Trooper and one we are very opposed to. Tom was told that there are several seminars being given all over the state to numerous city and county departments.

Chautauqua chapter has sent in their information and banking paperwork is on the way.

The banners are in for Brooklyn All., Manhattan All. and Cattaraugus Chapters.

We received a bill from the Legislative Gazette for the new year. There was much discussion on this. Beth will be getting in touch with Chris at the State Office and the Gazette to get this worked out. We would like new ads and more variety.

Beth contacted J.T. Tasker about the letters that went out to the members with former president Tim Werder's name on them. This was a big mix up and has now been corrected. If any members have complaints about NILCO or any of their agents, you should contact Beth with the information (name, date, location, etc.) so that she can contact J. T. Tasker.

The Freedom Rally Blowout Weekend flyer is now on the website. The Blackthorn Resort is sending all the information out to each chapter. In spite of numerous flyers about this, being put on the web, the price is \$60.00 per night not \$65.00. Be sure to make your reservations early.

Beth is still waiting for the bank paperwork from Wayne County Chapter.

Vice Presidents Report: Pete has cleared up the issue over the \$3,600.00 that was thought never deposited. It was and the paperwork verifies this.

On the issue of Sandy Marshall and the missing money, Pete was informed by the District Attorney's office that it could take some time to even get into court. The statute on this runs out in 2011. And no one knows the whereabouts of Sandy Marshall.

Treasurer's Report: Deb asked Pam if she knew if Prospector got his 200 extra copies of the Newsletter last time. There is some confusion about the billing for postage. Pete says he will check with Prospector later today.

Ralph sent to Deb a bill for fuel expenses for the State Seminar. It was missing the beginning gas receipt; therefore it will be sent back to Ralph for correction. All Board members were informed of this at the State Seminar; you must turn in both receipts in order to be paid.

Motion made by Tom and 2nd by Michael to accept the Treasurer's Report. Unanimous

Beth has a report from Pete Smith about the chapters who are delinquent in getting in the last of their 2009 reports. These are Brooklyn, Niagara, Oneida and Orleans. Pete cannot get all of our paperwork to the CPA's office to file our taxes in a timely manner if chapters continue to be late filing their reports. Michael is already working on Orleans and Niagara. Beth will contact Tanya about Brooklyn and Tom will take care of Oneida. Pete also mentioned that he has not yet received any 2010 reports from the newly formed chapters. Late reports are an ongoing problem that has to be addressed soon. Beth will leave this in the hands of the Coordinators for the moment.

Legislative Coordinator's Report: House Bill 3200 – Health Care Act 2009. This could have a very negative effect on us as riders, because of their term "At Risk". There are also rumors that the AMA is in support of this Bill. And **NO** that is not the American Medical Association.

George will be writing an article in the Newsletter about his two programs that each chapter should attempt to get involved in.

The State Legislature will be in session until June 21st. They will only be in session for 17 days after Freedom Rally. The point is to be sure to make your appointments to see them before there's no room for you on their schedule.

Congressional Bill 720 written by Gant is coming up for a vote.

A10073 – changes to the written drivers test is being backed by the DMV.

George also stated that the loss of Massa could mean a big boost for the 29th District. He has spoken with the mayor of Corning who seemed to be encouraging. It is possible that David Kuhn may be a candidate.

Much discussion concerning May -vs- June as Motorcycle Awareness Month. Since nationally it is recognized to be the month of May, why, should New York State be trying to change it?

Region A Coordinator: Michael reported that Steuben County has already approved May as Motorcycle Awareness month. Finger Lakes Chapter will be holding their Annual Swap Meet on April 11, 2010, Noon to 5pm. Ontario Chapter will be holding their annual Swap Meet on March 28, 2010, Noon to 5pm.

Michael then discussed his dissatisfaction with the fact that at the last State Board meeting they never voted to give Cattaraugus Chapter their \$250.00 start up money. Granted the meeting did start without a quorum, but when there was a quorum it should have been brought back for a vote. We almost lost a chapter because of this oversight. Cattaraugus had already waited patiently since they had been told at the Seminar that they needed to get their banking account established, which they had done.

Motion made by Michael and 2nd by Beth to give Cattaraugus Chapter \$250.00. Unanimous

Michael stated he is also taking of the issue concerning officers from 2 of his chapters, who apparently have officers who's membership has/or will expire.

There is too much delay in getting important and vital information out to the Chapter President's attention or the State Board's attention. Finger Lakes Chapter now has a website. Still being fully developed but it is up and running. Next Region A meeting to be held on April 9th.

Region C Coordinator: Tom reported that his Region has increased by 50 members. His last meeting was held in Syracuse at the Onondaga Chapter meeting place. Of the 5 chapters present they decided

to continue with the July Regional Fund Raiser all monies for this event will be donated to the MRF. Details to follow. At this particular meeting they started at 2pm and were done by 3:20pm. Tom's chapters suggested that the State Chapter meeting could be pared down in time. There was a suggestion of an on-line conference call. It was pointed out that this would not be cost effective, plus not all members who attend State Chapter meetings have the computer systems needed for such a usage. This will have to be discussed at another time. Tom also talked about the hassle that Syracuse and Onondaga Chapter went through to ride in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. They had their permits, but on the day of the parade one of the organizers of the parade tried to turn them away by telling them that no motorcycles were allowed. When everything was settled, they were allowed to ride, but Jerry Letson did receive a ticket for no helmet. He will be fighting this. Their billboard banner will make its first appearance on 81N just south of Syracuse on the Native American Reservation; it will be up for 1 month. More designations for the banner to be set at a later date.

Region E Coordinator: First question, he has not been officially sworn into office. Next question, what is Operation Patriot?

Operation Patriot was started by someone from Monroe County (not the Chapter) in regards to 9/11. The money is supposed to go to help homeless veterans and other veteran organizations and services. The original was also using the help of the Salvation Army for this project, so some of the money raised had to go to the Salvation Army to pay their fees. This event has also received opposition from the Blue Knights and the Red Knights. Just what the issues are we do not know. Right now we have more than enough on our plates, without taking on another project.

As for John being sworn in, no one brought an Oath of Office with them, it will be taken care of.

John reported that his chapters are doing a good job of sharing information on events. And he will be rotating the regional meeting around his area. His group is also taking a booth at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds June 11-14 to see if they can generate interest in new membership and/or a new chapter. Great idea guys. Next meeting will be held at Greene County.

Newsletter Editor's Report: What is really costing us is the postage, and there really is no way around it. It would be great if we could get everyone to agree to an on-line issue. Pam also mentioned a condensed version of the State Board & State Chapter meeting minutes. (Personally I do not disagree with her and will do my best to KISS.) Freedom Rally flyer will be in the next issue along with the information on the Blackthorn.

Motion made by Tom and 2nd by John to make new signs for the State Chapter meetings that are more portable and will be laminated. The roll call vote was 5 yes, 2 abstain – motion carried.

State Office Manager's Report: Our numbers are growing. She has still not received any information from Ralph on the certificates needed for Freedom Rally. She has sent new EIN form to Manhattan All., since it is felt that the first may have been lost in the mail. Chris still needs a PO Box address for Brooklyn All. Paperwork for the Foundation is still being processed. She needs the dates for the next State Seminar so that she can book this with the hotel. Chris sent out questions to the Board about non-members holding officers positions. This will be taken care of by Regions.

A question was raised about who is responsible for getting the guidebook ready to hand out each January. With a lot of input from other Board members, apparently it has been done by several different people. It has been done in the past by the President, Newsletter Editor and the list goes on. Beth has stated that she will handle the decision on who will be responsible in the future.

Committee Reports: Beth has sent Pete his contract for signing; Chris signed her at the Seminar. Pam says hers was sign already, she will see that Beth gets a copy of it. Deb's will be ready at the next meeting.

Freedom Rally: a work in progress. Beth will be getting touch with Ralph.

Old Business: Need to be sure that we have our Rep. to the MRF in place.

Motion by Tom and 2nd by Pete to appoint Prospector as our Representative to the MRF. Unanimous
Just a reminder that a letter must to be sent to the MRF giving them this information. Kathy will take care of this.

Beth also reported that the new website for Officers is now on Yahoo Groups, everyone will need to follow the links to get signed in. This site will be moderated by Beth and Pete. More information on the site will be added as time moves on.

New Business:

Motion made by George 2nd by Pete to make Mitch Proner an ABATE lawyer, in an appointed position on the Board, which will also be non-voting. Unanimous

Pam feels that our corporate attorney Michael de Freitas should also be informed of who is on the new State Board for 2010. Beth stated that she would take care of this.

Motion made by Michael 2nd by Beth to appoint George Gorman to replace Gary Myers as a Board member of the Foundation. Unanimous

Motion made by Pete 2nd by several to adjourn the meeting at 2:30pm.

Kathy A. Grasby
State Secretary