

**ABATE OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
BIG LICKS TROPICAL GRILL
LYNCHBURG, VA
12/6/20**

OPENING / CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Executive Director Stan Bryant, with the following members present: **CULPEPER:** Maryann Sowle; **FLATLANDER:** John Bilotta; **IRON HORSE CAVALRY:** Stan Bryant, Lenard Millner, Daniel Trail and Jennifer Trail; **LAKE PIRATES:** Alfred Matherly, Ben Romine, Christa Romine, Elizabeth Blankenship, Esther Maxie, Steve Maxie, Steven Maxie, Tina Maxie, **MASON DIXON:** Joe Wagner, GW Peterson; **MOUNTAIN THUNDER:** Steven Foster, Tammy Garcia, Alison Perdue, Leon Perdue, Chuck Sitton, Julie Swartz; **TAZEWELL COUNTY:** Sam Hendrick, Stephanie Hendrick, Nelson Blankenship, Phyllis Blankenship; **TAZEWELL COUNTY NOMADS:** Brock Hopper.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a quorum was established.

A copy of the minutes from the previous BOD meeting was handed out, Stan moved to dispense with a reading of the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Stan said that our Lobby Day next year probably will not happen, since access to the buildings have been denied for health reasons. He noted that he had heard the President of the Virginia Civil Defense League Philip Van Cleeve on the radio saying that they were unable to apply for a permit for a rally on state properties and so the VACDL will be conducting a "rolling rally" through the streets.

Stan noted that the State Rally was good and we will be looking for a chapter to host the 2021 Rally and will need a venue. He also noted that the US Military Vets had done a great job of helping to host the Rally. Stan turned the meeting over to John.

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

John Bilotta did not have much to say now as Operations Director, instead went directly to AMA, MRF and NCOM news.

He noted that Tiffany Cipoletti has left the MRF (Motorcycle Riders Foundation) and gone to work at the AMA (American Motorcyclist Association).

He also pointed out that the MRF has requested some help from the SMRO(s) for the cost associated with a contract fee for the CQ Engage program and requested \$500 be sent to help pay for the service, which helps all SMRO(s) stay up-to-date with legislation and provides a means to quickly and easily contact our legislators. John noted that the 2021 Bikers Inside the Beltway, to be held in May, is still questionable and will depend on access to Congress next year.

He did say that the 2021 MRF Meeting of the Minds will be held in September in Atlanta, Georgia, being a combined effort with SMRO(s) from Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina pitching in to make it a great event and encouraged everyone to try to attend.

He said he met the new head of the re-established ABATE of West Virginia at this year's Meeting of the Minds and is now a member of that organization too.

John recommended the movie "Ride Free or Die", which depicts the problem of profiling and the efforts of motorcyclists to fight against it. The documentary is for sale or rent on Amazon.

He also handed out more applications for the MRF Young Activist program, which encourages younger people and recognizes their contributions to motorcycling.

Finally, he had handed out some "pizza boxes" from NCOM/AIM and requested that they be displayed at chapter meetings. He also handed out AIM registration holders, which should be carried in a pocket, noting that during a traffic stop, if a rider opens his saddle bag to obtain registration and proof of insurance, that would open the door for law enforcement to take a peek at contents of saddlebags and possibly conduct a search.

TREASURY REPORT

Joe Wagner noted some chapter fund transfers, with one being from one chapter's BB&T account to another preferred bank and another transfer from the inactive Hole-in-the Wall Chapter back to ABATE.

BOD 12/6/20 MEETING MINUTES (continued)

TREASURY REPORT (continued)

Joe said he paid the Virginia Corporation annual filing fee. He also noted a \$4 service charge from BB&T that wasn't supposed to be charged that he will be contesting. (editor's note- please check your chapter BB&T accounts to see if a fee has been assessed and if so, please contact Joe about it)

Joe moved to send the \$500 contribution to the MRF for the CQ Engage. A short discussion concerning the benefits obtained and differences between MRF and AMA followed. The motion was seconded and approved.

LEGISLATIVE

Legislative Coordinator GW Peterson said that all State Senators and Delegates will be up for re-election next year. (editor's note-he later corrected himself, noting that State Senators elections will be held in 2023) He believes the new majority in the House of Delegates may have a difficult time next November and that there will be big changes in both House, mostly due to this year's legislation centering on 1st and 2nd Constitutional Amendments and defunding the police.

Both GW and the proposed patron of the helmet reform bill agreed that this probably will not be the time to submit the bill, also noting that it will be a short session and each Delegate will be limited in the number of bills that one can file and carry.

GW reviewed Missouri's successful bill and noted similarities concerning insurance coverage requirements. He also suggested volunteering for candidates' election bids and contributing money and services, such as pounding signs or volunteering as an election poll worker/watcher.

GW has basic bills already written.

Short discussion followed concerning bills with or without organ donor provision and then another one on statistics.

ADVERTISING

Stan said we are still in need of and looking for an Advertising Director.

WEBSITE

Joe said he will post event flyers to the website.

PRODUCTS

John said he did bring some long sleeve shirts, hoodies and hats to help against the colder weather. He also had some patches available. He noted that no credit cards could be used today.

MEMBERSHIP

Maryann Sowle said she will take care of sending replacement pins and cards, if requested. She handed out annual year pins for each chapter present.

OPEN FLOOR

Joe asked whether or not anyone has heard anything from the Dragon's Claw Chapter?

GW asked if anyone was signed up for Medicare and would be discussing it with them later.

"Squinty" said the Lake Pirates Chapter set up a table outside of a store and raised over \$600 for veterans Freedom Farm. He also noted that the F.O.E. will allow them to set up their place and have a fundraising BBQ. Their chapter will again be setting up donation tables at or adjacent to Kroger and/or Food Lion.

John noted that campaign contributions should be individual's and that chapter funds should not be used for contributions to candidates' bid for elections. GW did say that one could write "ABATE OF VA" on the memo line of their personal check.

ADJOURNMENT

Stan moved to adjourn the meeting. A question was asked about date for next meeting. He said a tentative date for the next BOD meeting would be in March. His motion to adjourn was seconded and approved.