

ABATE OF VIRGINIA, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 6, 2020
BIG LICK TROPICAL GRILL, LYNCHBURG, VA

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Executive Director Stan Bryant with the following chapters represented: **Culpeper/Mason-Dixon**: GW Peterson, Maryann Sowle, Joe Wagner; **Flatlander**: John Bilotta; **Iron Horse Cavalry**: Stan Bryant, Leonard Millner, Daniel Trail, Jennifer Trail; **Lake Pirates**: Ben Romine, Christa Romine, Elizabeth Blankenship, Alfred Matherly, Esther Maxie, Steve Maxie, Steven Maxie, Tina Maxie; **Mountain Thunder**: Steven Foster, Tammy Garcia, Alison Perdue, Leon Perdue, Chuck Sitton, Julie Swartz; **Tazewell County**: Sam Hendrick, Nelson Blankenship, Phyllis Blankenship, Stephanie Hendrick **Tazewell County Nomads**: Brock Hopper.

A quorum was established and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Stan moved to dispense with reading the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Stan said that our Annual Lobby Day in Richmond would probably not happen since access to the building is still denied for health reasons.

He also noted that he had listened to VCDL President Philip Van Cleve on the radio, saying that Governor Northam will not allow any rallies on Capitol grounds, so the VCDL will be holding a rolling parade type of rally.

Stan said that the State Rally turned out well. He said we will be looking for a chapter to host the 2021 Rally and will need to find a venue.

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

John noted that Tiffany Cipoletti has left the MRF and is now working at the AMA.

He said the MRF provides the CQ Engage program to help share information and help people reach out to their legislators. There was a proposal and request at the Meeting of the Minds to ask for help funding CQ Engage by the SMRO(s) and John asked that we help with the \$500 requested to help support it. He said the MRF Bikers Inside the Beltway is slated for

May, but it will depend on access to Congress then. He also said that the 2021 Meeting of the Minds will be held in September in Atlanta, Georgia. It promises to be a good one, with assistance provided to Georgia by SMRO(s) in South Carolina and North Carolina.

The movie "Ride Free or Die" is about motorcycle clubs, profiling and the work being done by club members and the MRF to combat profiling. The movie can be downloaded from Amazon for purchase or short term rental at a reasonable price.

John handed out applications for the MRF Young Activist program, for next years' nominees.

John noted that NCOM founder Richard Lester has provided some "pizza boxes" and document holders. He requests that chapter directors have the pizza boxes on display at chapter meetings.

Some riders had complained about unwarranted searches during traffic stops. The document holders were provided to hold license, registration and insurance cards to help prevent law enforcement from conducting unwarranted searches of open saddle bags at a traffic stop.

John also noted that ABATE of West Virginia is up and running again, thanks to Lanty Hammons. They met at the Meeting of the Minds in Indianapolis and John is now also a member of ABATE of WV.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Joe Wagner reported on the treasury, noted that he made a payment for the annual corporate fee and had helped one chapter treasurer with transfer of funds from one account to a new account.

Joe moved to approve the \$500 for the CQ Engage program, followed by short discussion. The motion was seconded and approved.

LEGISLATIVE

GW first said that all members of the General Assembly will be up for re-election, but he later noted that we will not be voting for members of the Senate next year. He went on to say that the new majority in the House may have a difficult time in November and believes there will be big changes in the House.

He suggested volunteering for candidates' election bids, noting that one could contribute not just money to a campaign, but could contribute time and services. Both GW and the patron of the helmet reform bill agreed that this probably would not be the year to introduce the bill due to it being a short session. GW is also reviewing Missouri's successful helmet bill and noted similarities concerning insurance coverages. Discussion followed about a bill with or without an organ donor provision.

ADVERTISING

Stan said we are still looking for a new Advertising Director.

PRODUCTS

John said he had brought some things for the cold weather. He also noted that products can be ordered from the website.

MEMBERSHIP

Maryann handed out pins to the chapter directors and when asked about replacement pins and cards, said she will take care of sending out replacements if she is provided the information.

OPEN FLOOR

Joe asked if anyone had any information about the Dragon's Claw Chapter.

GW asked if anyone had some information about Medicare.

Squinty said their chapter raised \$600 for Freedom Farm and their local F.O.E. will allow them to set up at their place for a BBQ. They will also be setting up tables at Kroger and/or Food Lion.

ADJOURNMENT

Stan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved; next BOD meeting is tentatively slated for March.