

**ABATE OF VA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LEDO PIZZA
126 OLD GRAVES MILL ROAD, LYNCHBURG, VA
JAN. 7, 2024**

Call to Order

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Executive Director Stan Bryant.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chapters represented/members in attendance: Blue Ridge Back Roads- Eddie Ober and Leon Perdue; Chapter 99- Tony Tronco and Anthony Tronco; Culpeper/Mason-Dixon- Joe Wagner; Flatlander- John Bilotta and Lisa Bilotta; Iron Horse Cavalry- Stan Bryant, Dave Sutton, Chuck Sitton, Kim Hise, Perry Putnam, Kim Putnam; Mountain Thunder- David Lester, Chad Waldron, John Norville, Tara Abbott, Chip Abbott; Purgatory Mountain- Steve Hubbard and Ben Thrasher.

Stan said we thought we would have some legislation to discuss for this new session of the General Assembly, but there did not seem to be much right now and would let Dave speak about legislation.

He also noted that the 2024 State Rally will be held at the same location as the 2023 Rally, at the Augusta Expo Center in Fishersville.

Operations

John Bilotta said that with the most recent election in November, if needed, one could find their new legislators using the General Assembly website. We would need to introduce ourselves to the newly elected legislators in Richmond and let them know what ABATE is about.

John also passed out a sheet for Chapter Directors to verify their contact information so the website could be updated. He also noted that if the Chapter Directors did not want their information published, perhaps their chapter might have an alternate means of contact such as a Membership Coordinator and that person could supply their information. He also said he would post the meeting minutes and try to help Joe with posting other current information.

Treasury

Joe Wagner said that we did not spend any money on a lobbyist last year and that we have over \$3,000 more than this time last year. He spoke about the recent payments for other services and deposits to the account. He also spoke briefly about overcoming

some of the glitches with Paypal and the membership application accessed on the website.

Legislation

Dave Sutton said that redistricting has affected us all in some way and there will be some changes in Delegates and State Senators. He also noted that once the session starts, we may see some motorcycle-related bills drop. Dave also acknowledged that not everyone wants to be associated with ABATE, so we will work with other groups.

Dave said that the Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists (VCOM) Lobby Day meeting would be held on Sunday, January 21 in Richmond. Although we do not have any motorcycle specific legislation, Dave said that he has heard that there may be some vehicle noise bills submitted to address noise issues. He said it is possible that vehicle operators could be ticketed, then considered "guilty until proven innocent" and would need to find a test facility and pay to have the vehicle tested to prove the vehicle does not exceed whatever limit is set. He went on to say that the number of pre-filed bills seems low right now and encouraged everyone to make appointments with their legislators if they are planning to visit. He reminded everyone to be courteous and to not antagonize anyone.

AMA/MRF/NCOM

John thanked everyone who contacted their Congressional Representatives, asking for support for House Resolution

And said now we would need to contact Senators Warner and Kaine and ask that they support the Senate version. He reminded everyone to start making appointments to visit their Representatives during the MRF Bikers Inside the Beltway, in Washington DC, (May 20 & 21).

John said that he and Lisa would be attending the NCOM Convention in Kansas City, Missouri on the Mother's Day weekend (May 10-12). He also said they would be attending the MRF Meeting of the Minds in St. Louis, Missouri in September, possibly during the same weekend as the State Rally.

A question was raised about the number of MRF members in Virginia. John said we have thousands of motorcyclists in the state, not so many in ABATE and even fewer in the MRF.

BOD MEETING MINUTES (continued)

STATE RALLY

Stan started a discussion about the State Rally, noting that the location has already been selected, the user fee will be \$1390 for the weekend. The fees for attendees were determined to be \$25/single and \$40/couple, with pre-sale of tickets. There would also be a fee for camping at the Rally site. Stan recommended having Joe provide \$500 as seed money to get the tickets printed and get the ball rolling, with the understanding that money raised by the Rally would pay for the Rally with any excess to go back to the Treasury. It was also decided that a committee would be set up for planning and execution of the plans.

Further discussion was held about whether to limit attendance to ABATE members or have it open to the public. It was brought up that alcohol sales may be the deciding factor about having it closed or open and would be determined by next meeting.

It was recommended that vendors be charged a fee from \$30 to \$50, with food service trucks permitted without a fee,

Products

Lisa had brought some products to the meeting, she said members could also contact her and products could be purchased and shipped to them.

Open Floor

Mountain Thunder will be setting up at the MDA Car Show at the Berglund Center, March 8-10.

Iron Horse Cavalry Chapter will conduct their 3rd Annual "Bob's Ride Poker Run on April 6.

Blue Ridge Back Roads will have a ride to combat juvenile diabetes on June 1.

Adjournment

Stan suggested a date for the next BOD meeting, but after some discussion, several other dates were suggested. The tentative date for the next BOD meeting will be Sunday, April 28, 2024.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and approved.