

ABATE OF VIRGINIA, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 1, 2025
LEDO PIZZA, LYNCHBURG, VA

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 AM by Executive Director Stan Bryant with the following chapters represented: **Blue Ridge Backroads:** Eddie Ober, Angie and Marvin DeWease, Andrea Spence, Ron Bailey; **Chapter 99:** Tony Tronco; **Culpeper / Mason-Dixon:** Maryann Sowle, Joe Wagner; **Flatlander:** John Bilotta, Lisa Bilotta; **Highlands:** Neil and Georgie Hardesty; **Iron Horse Cavalry:** Stan Bryant, Perry and Kim Putnam, Chuck Sitton, Kim Hise, Dave "Prof" Sutton; **Mountain Thunder:** Eddie Conner, Laurita Conner, Travis Moorman; **Purgatory Mountain:** Steve Hubbard, Ben Thrasher, Julie Swartz; **At Large:** Tom McGrath, Lee Bitzer; **prospective Halesford Brigade Chapter members:** Chip Abbott, Tara Abbott, Trina Glatt, Debbie Cobb, Jeff Carr, Robert Hall, Tammy Foster, Douglas Wright.

A quorum was established and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Stan moved to dispense with reading the minutes from the previous BOD meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Stan said that he attended the Blue Ridge Backroads Chapter Poker Run on Saturday and noted that many small contributions add up and go a long way to exceed \$18,000, to be split up between two childrens camps.
He went on to say that even though we are quasi-political, social and civic works go a long way for the organization and our communities.
Stan said that he is hoping to have another new chapter in the Martinsville/Danville area.

The "Pig" campaign has received positive response from a recipient at Bubbha's. Joe said we spent \$125 for a bill he received for the pigs and/or the QR code.

Stan noted that Chip Abbott is to be the Chapter Director of the new chapter. A quick vote was taken and after a humorous vote of "NO", the actual motion was unanimously approved. The new chapter is to be called the Halesford Brigade Chapter.

STATE RALLY

Chuck said money has been set aside for the site, three vendors have already confirmed and paid. He said they have another possible vendor and all the pieces are falling into place for September 19-21 in Fishersville.

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

There was a discussion concerning the status of Dragons Claw, Smith Mountain Lake Pirates, Tazewell County and Nelson County chapters, the possible need to decommission the chapters and update the website and By-Laws. A motion was made to hold off taking action until the next BOD meeting, to be held during the State Rally in September, the motion was seconded and approved. John also handed out some sheets for the Chapter Directors to complete, to update contact lists and website.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Joe gave a financial report, said he renewed the Post Office box and paid a fee for the "Pigs". He said he had one credit card issue, but it was resolved and money was returned.

LEGISLATIVE
Ron Bailey has stepped up to act as Legislative contact for the Blue Ridge Backroads Chapter.

Tom said that he attended a meeting on March 17 with VCOM representatives and will hold another meeting on June 22. He said VCOM is restructuring and will not be associated with the Law Group.
Tom said he expects to have two legislative issues for next year. One will allow lane filtering when traffic slows or stops and allow use of next available exit.
The other issue is that traffic tickets usually involve a defensive driving class, but since there are no motorcycle classes, he said they would propose an on-line class.

Dave has sent out some surveys and has had a few positive replies. The survey included the right-to-repair and helmet law reform. He listed several options involving age and experience.
He said Lobby Day will be here before you know it, noting the relatively low turnout for the past two years since the pandemic had disrupted all lobbying. He also stressed the importance of making appointments with legislators.

Dave has contacted several hotels in the Richmond area about a meeting room for Sunday, January 18, 2026 for our Lobby Day. He said he found one that would work and can put it on his credit card, but would like to be reimbursed for the expense.
A motion was made to accept Dave's suggestion and reimburse him for his expenses. The motion was seconded and approved.

MRF / NCOM

John had some plastic document holders available for all and encouraged everyone to use them to keep their documents in one to preclude the possibility of any unwarranted searches during a traffic stop.
John also noted that the MRF Meeting of the Minds will be held in Shreveport, Louisiana one week after the State Rally and he encouraged everyone to join the MRF and consider attending the Meeting of the Minds.

PRODUCTS

Lisa said we were sent a backpack bike bag as a promotion and it will be one of the items available at the State Rally. She also said she has been taking care of the products for too many years and will be looking for someone to take over.

MEMBERSHIP

Maryann had year pins for Chapter Directors and answered some membership questions.

OPEN FLOOR

Stan said the AIL insurance people will be asking everyone to update their next-of-kin information.

Tom said that he had started VCOM after arguing for HOV lane access for motorcycles. He said that since VCOM and the Law Group are no longer affiliated, there will be a meeting on Sunday, June 22 for those interested in helping support VCOM.

The setup fees for the Handlebar Pigs and QR code are \$125 per chapter.

Some questions were raised about the Products responsibilities so Lisa explained a little about them. Julie Swartz said she would be interested in taking charge of the products.

ADJOURNMENT

Stan moved to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded and approved. The next BOD meeting will be held in September at the State Rally.