

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC.

Saturday, February 11, 2023

State Delegate Meeting – Melbourne

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Griz- 1). Lighthouse Chapter will be closing. Southernmost has closed. Bank accounts will be closed. Explained that Michaels family will be getting the accidental death money, because of his fall.
2). Late Report, including minutes are due after every meeting. Fines will ensue.
3). Difference between a Safety Booth and MSAP presentation. Any chapter member can man a safety booth.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Darrin – Thanks to Lagoon Chapter from hosting. Also, thank you for all that volunteered at the Swamp Buggy Races. **Griz:** It was a blast.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Lynn – Reminder to email all minutes to the State Office after each chapter meeting. They are read. Also, no dollar amounts should be listed in the reports. Due to the fact the the minutes were omitted from the emailed packet to the Chapter, the acceptance of them will occur at the next meeting in Tallahassee.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Debbie – *Motion by Forest Chapter: Treasury report should not be accepted til some clarification on several items. Seconded by Freedom Chapter.* Questions to the Report, why are Google charges different amounts, why are we paying the IRS every month, (clarification – it is the Sales tax to Florida Department of Revenue). **MOTION PASSED.**

STATE OFFICE REPORT: Brandy- 1). Flyers, Check, Property Release, and Insurance Request needs to be sent at the same time to the State Office. Verification of insurance amount will be made prior, also the flyer can be emailed for flyer approval. **SE Chapter:** Should we be using “Parties” on our flyers? **Brandy:** Only Rallies should not be used. Reminder that all paperwork is to be postmarked by the 5th of every month. **Frenchie:** Inquired about a flyer for the (future) Central Chapter. Per Griz, it has been removed at this time.

2). **Griz** – All meetings must have sign in sheets with a witness signature at the bottom.

3). We need to clear up some of the credit cards. Board has approved to remove Patti Nasrallah and Elizabeth (Boots) Buchholz off the credit cards.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REPORT: Charlie- Be Safe, Keep hydrated, and watch out for idiot drivers.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Laurie -

November: Most New members: **Polk** Largest Percentage of Growth: **Polk**

December: Most New Members: **Polk** Largest Percentage of Growth: **Polk**

Congrats to Peace River for their new Life Member.

PR/COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Bill – I have submitted 2 different articles for “Reason to Ride” publication. Unfortunately, they have some issues to correct before it can be published in Florida. When completed, it will be in Hard Copy and on online. Forest shared an idea of sharing motorcycle awareness signs to Business owner.

WEBSITE REPORT/ Masterlink: Brandy – Board is asking for a vote of confidence for Tara Ricci to be the Masterlink Editor. **Motion was made Lake, Seconded by SE.** All in favor. Brandy – Please submit info on your local chapters for Masterlink. “Get a story together and send it in.” Get a sponsor. We need your help. Article deadline are every 2 months. (2 weeks prior to odd months). Get members to write up something, maybe a personal interest story.

PRODUCTS TRUSTEE REPORT: Shayne (Velcro) – We have stuff to sell. Also, we have silent auction. Come up and bid. Please bring items for the next Silent Auction.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Darrin – Thank you again Lagoon Chapter. HB709 has been drafted by Rich and submitted by Rep Yarkowsky – It is requesting \$1.50 from the \$2.50 registration of all motorcycles to be paid quarterly. As of right now there is no Senate companion bill. No committee roster yet but after the committees start we need to be calling our legislators letting them know that they we want their support. **Forest** – should we be contacting our people for a Senate companion? **Darrin** – Rich is already looking for Senate support. **Forest** - will be contacting our local officials to see if they can co-sponsor. **Brandy** – They still won't guarantee a spot for us in Tallahassee. I used to be able to plan at least 2 months in advance. **Shayne** – Are there any unusual bills? **Darrin** – Possible changing the State Bird, but anyone can check MyFloridaHouse.gov. Only 6% of Bills make it into law. **Forest** questioned the list of accomplishments listed in the previous minutes. Lynn verified they were yes, they were read from the Legislative Trustee in December. **SE** talked about the list that his secretary made a list of people to call and whose phones to blow up when we need to call, and asked about the script that was offered in the past. Will that still be available? **Darrin** – yes. He explained the correspondence and tally of who calls and supports/or discourages certain bills. **Shayne** – will there be more Podcast? **Darrin** – yes, when there is more to share.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Jerry T- Not present.

NCOM UPDATE – Phoenix 2023, June 16-18

TALLAHASSEE 2023: Confirmation is still pending, but if approved - April 2, 2023, for Delegate meeting, April 3, 2023, for the Ride to the Capital. **Lagoon** – Are we still going for the meeting since we don't have 60 days to organize the police escort and the setup can take up to 2 months. **Griz** – so far we are still going. **Vintage** - We do have to have a meeting. So, we still must make plans for the meeting. **Gulf Coast** – We could have a great party of the Campground that wants us to come back. **Lake** – Lake County is going to Tallahassee. If we give up now, we have lost the war. **Brandy** – I can still do the paperwork, but it's not guaranteed. **Hillsborough** – can't we still make this like a regular event and still go to the Capital? **Eestero** – I think we should still go and ride around the Capital either way and make our presence known. **Griz** – That would be a good idea. But we need more than 45 motorcycles. **SE** - Can we get the MCs involved? How about Hog? **Griz** – We've tried. **Polk recognized Chris** – Given the atmosphere in Tallahassee, we probably won't get in. We should show up and take part in the Bikefest of Tallahassee. (*Found out the timing won't work*). We need to think outside of the box. **SE** – why don't we go early and park in every parking spot? **Eestero** – Maybe we should look at the campground again. **Lake** – can we still get the permit for the Police Escort. Brandy gave the protocol for getting the escort. **Griz** – Do you want to go to the Capital? Do you want to spend the money for the permits even if we can't go on the grounds. **Lake** - made a *Motion – Abate of Florida goes to Tallahassee. 2nd by Estero River.*

Discussion – **Palm Beach** – After going for years and years, is it worth it? We know this is a travel day and Easter is nearby. **Shayne** – If you make that commitment, you need to go. **Forest** – Because we have set a precedence of going every year, and if we don't go this year, we've dropped the ball. And we need to get ahold of our Representatives, and I will help, and let them know of these issues. **Eestero** – Aren't they in sessions? Explained Travel days. **Newsome representative Melanie** – Rich is working on the Governor to be at the event. **Hillsborough** – If we do this, is there anything to stop us? **Griz** – Homeland Security? But we could do it on the street. **Forest** – You may need a permit for 3 or more gathering in some counties. **SE** - I feel we should do the parking idea. **Lake** – We can pass the hat to cover the permit.

Vote: passed

Palm Beach – If we go.... **Griz** – Oh, we are going. With all the hands raised and the chapters behind you, we need 200 bikes+. Brevard used to have 5000 for a Toy Run! **Forest** – We need to get our PR out to the Motorcycle communities. **Lagoon** – Everything for the meeting is still the same? When will the flyer be going out? Do we need 2 flyers to show to the public? **SE** – it will be in our Newsletter.

STATE PARTY: Velcro – Daytona – we can do a setup at his family’s bar for 10 days (80 Volunteers) or for 2 weekends including Annie Oakley’s. We will need safety materials for 80,000 people. This is less than 4 weeks away. Question about selling items, Dan said no. We can’t disrespect this owner. **Forest** – that 15k that in the Safety and Education fund, can’t that be used for this event. Dan suggested that we do Annie Oakley’s because of the time frame. **Shayne** – I suggest we do the weekends. **Daytona** – much less safety products needed and less volunteers. **Brandy** – can we do membership? **Dan** – yes. Just nothing to be sold or any drawings. **Joyce** – Can the Tally flyer be available? I can make 1000 flyers to donate. **Daytona** – Forest chapter offered to bring their trailer with some safety products. **Daytona** – *Motion to attend the weekends at Annie Oakley’s during Bike Week. Seconded by Forest. All in Favor.* **Shayne** – let’s find out if maybe some members could help put people up. **Griz** – get Brandy the information and we will get it out. **Palm Beach** – Can we get new membership info? **Griz** - We need to use up what we have. **Forest** – Here’s a sign-up sheet. **Shayne** – I still want an event in Central Florida. Talked about the Ocala National Forest. **Polk recognized Chris** – Polk would like to throw ABATE a party. There’s a Banquet Hall we could use at the Hotel. EBoards could eat for free. This would include a meal and a Run around Polk County. Labor Day weekend. We could get hotel rooms for about \$80-\$100. We could do this, hangout and socialize. No Agenda. We just need to know if you are interested. **Brandy** – I need more info for insurance. **Tara** – why is this different than a State Party already being discussed. **Lake** - the question is being asked if we want to have a party or not. **Freedom** – *Motion to bring back to the chapters to discuss. 2nd by SE.* **Peace River** - why can’t we do both including the State Party. **Griz** – Yes. **Chris** – we just need to know if the Delegation is interested. “Delegation is interested”. **Griz** said to bring back to the chapters.

OLD BUSINESS: 1). Confirmation of new time for meetings. 12pm. **Palm Beach** - this would be the delegates meeting. **Forest** – brought Bylaw change options. We need to take these back to the chapters. **Lake** – can’t the President make changes that are in the best interest of Corporation. **Vintage** - Given the fact that our delegates didn’t bring the new time change to our chapters, it should be tabled till a chapter response is given. **Griz** – gave the timeline of events from the last meeting. After it was voted on by the delegates it was brought to our attention that it needs to be published 2 consecutive times and announced at the delegates meeting. **Griz** – Take this back to your chapters so it can pass by the next Delegate meeting in April.

2). Status of new 501c3 – “Point of Order” given by **Forest**. In 2013, we voted to start ABATE of Florida Safety and Education. We have asked for information concerning the balance and status of “our” 501c3. The board needs to get Jerry T to send a “Cease and Desist” to Doc on the use of “ABATE of Florida Safety and Education.” **SE** – Bob stressed his opinion. We need to know what steps we need to take to get the money back. **Marie** - In 2014, Doc Fish was President and President of the 501c3. **Griz** – *Motion is tabled.* I will call Jerry T. **Esterio** – We need safety products. **Lagoon** - Why can’t we send a request? **Griz** – We must put in a request but need more info for it. **Forest** – Doc stated that we need a Safety Director. **Lake** – Do we need a Motion for Russ to be the Safety Director? **Griz** – Russ Pace you are know the Safety Director.

3). Results of Motion concerning the name “Spooks ‘n Scoots”. Application has been made.

NEW BUSINESS: Introduction of possible new chapters:

BONEYARD Chapter (Pasco County) – Intro to new President and Vice President. Both explained their goals for this new Chapter. **Daytona** – *Motion to accept Boneyard as a new Chapter. Lake seconded. Chapter was Accepted.*

CENTRAL Chapter – Intro to specifics of the Chapter. Melanie explained the goals and people on the Board. **Lake** – *Motion to accept Central Chapter. Seconded by SE.* Frenchie – Lana and I will be involved in this chapter. *Chapter was Accepted.*

Vintage – *Motion to have the State Treasurer removed. Forest Seconded.* There are so many problems with the Treasurers report, and she can’t answer basic questions concerning expenses.

Hillsborough – Brandy can you explain what is going on? Brandy – All reports come into the State Office, and I scan them and send to Deb. Any receipts are done the same way. We have paid a bookkeeper to come in and organize QuickBooks. She, the Bookkeeper, still has more work to do with adding the Chapters to the QuickBooks account. **Lagoon** – This last report has had the most information on it ever. We should wait at least til April. **Lake** – If things don't improve, then maybe it's time. **Griz** – *Tabled the Motion til next meeting.* Chapters make a list of questions and issues, and they will be addressed at the next meeting.

GOOD TO THE ORDER:

Shayne – Laurie is on the mend and will be trying to be here at the next meeting. Thank you for your prayers.

Forest - FDOT has a grant that is available til the end of the month. This is from NTSA. Russ was asked to apply for it as our new Safety Director.

Several Chapters announced their events for the coming weeks.

50/50 was drawn and a portion was donated back. Silent auction was done.

Meeting ended.

Respectfully Submitted by Lynn Corr