ABATE of Michigan

Fighting for the rights of all motorcyclists since 1976

Riding free since 2012!!

Official Michigan Rider Newsletter

December 2026



IMPORTANT!!! Please read the President's message on Page 3 for information and timely information regarding the future of the Michigan Rider Newsletter and matters affecting our membership.

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www.abateofmichigan.org

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23 W. Great Lakes
River Rouge, Mi 48218
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MMRPAC@aol.com

Monthly Michigan Rider Newsletter
On the Go??
Read /Download your On-Line Copy here:
https://www.abateofmichigan.org/michigan-rider-newsletter.html

https://abateofmichigan.org/

Visit our Website for downloadable flyers, forms, monthly newsletters, events and much more!!
www.abateofmichigan.org

The Prez Report - Gary Kopta

Hello everyone.
What an election! I hope everyone voted and all's I can say is buckle up. It's about to get interesting. Both federal and state elections turned out a little different than some expected. Get to know your reps and senators, if they are newly elected find them and introduce yourself, let them know what we, ABATE of Michigan, are about. Whether or not you voted for them does not matter now. We need their help in getting things accomplished. We have friends on both sides of the aisle. That's the only way this works is if we have friends everywhere.
In this issue you will see the bylaw proposals that you will be voting on at the seminar. Do not vote on the ballot in the rider. You must be in person at the seminar to vote. That is also a bylaw.
If you read the front cover, you will see the notice about the newsletter. This is purely about cost saving. It is not a slam to the publishing company that puts the Rider out. They have been outstanding to work with and have been cutting us some slack over the last few years on how many issues we put out monthly. They did not have to do that for us. I appreciate the fact that a company works with us like they have. We kindly ask that you fill out the form on the right, send it in to me or just simply email me with your comments regarding the future of the newsletter.
A few years back when we started charging $5,00 per year to get the Rider mailed to you it was costing ABATE approximately $11.00 a year. Now the rider is costing ABATE over $20.00 per year for each member receiving the newsletter in the mail.
There are other bylaws in this month's rider for you to see that are cost savings bylaws. From newsletter cuts or price increases to officers going without pay. We are committed to saving this organization, but we need your help to do it. We have certain things that we cannot cut such as insurance, taxes and accountant, and general administration, which is basically office supplies, postage etc. Thanks for being a member and I hope to see everyone soon.



Phone: 989 781-2306
gkopta1@gmail.com

Gary
ABATE of Michigan President



ABATE MEMBERSHIP

Join & Renew

ABATE of Michigan, Inc.

Fighting for the Rights of
ALL MOTORCYCLISTS since 1976
Join online at www.abateofmichigan.org

Date: _____

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

City/Township: _____

State/Zip +4: _____

County: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

** Do you prefer the Michigan Rider online ( ), or receive it in the mail ( )?

Make checks payable to: ABATE of Michigan, Inc. Dues are not tax deductible. There is a $25 charge for returned checks. Allow (4) weeks for processing.
Voting rights take effect 30 days after application has been received at the address shown on the cover page.
As a member you have $3500 in Life Insurance available.

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal – Your Membership # _____

Single ☐ $25 Online ☐ $30 Mail* Couple ☐ $45 Online ☐ $50 Mail*

2 years ☐ $40/person ☐ $70/couple

** Applies to one-year membership only*

****ALL APPLICATIONS SUBJECT TO BACKGROUND CHECK. NO PERSON THAT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF CSC FELONY SHALL BE GRANTED A MEMBERSHIP. PLEASE DO NOT COMPLETE THE APPLICATION****

***Processing fees are added when you Renew/Join using on line services

Living at the same address ☐

Life: 15x's annual membership/person ☐

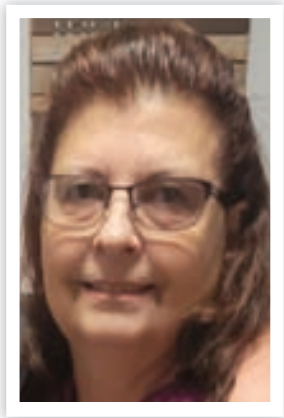
Life 15x's annual membership/couple living at the same address ☐

☐ AWARENESS DONATION $ _____

Complete this form then send it along with your payment to:
ABATE of Michigan Inc.,
P.O. Box 19,
Sheridan, Michigan
48884

Please make checks payable to ABATE of Michigan Inc.

Secretary Report - Debra Townsend



Phone: 269 435-2058
abatemichsecretary@frontier.com

Hello All;
Boy, October came and went so fast. Can't complain about the extended riding season we have had. The Board met in October. After discussion about this years' raffle, it was decided to hold another cash raffle in 2027. Sherri is stepping down as raffle chair.
Thank you, Sherri, for all your hard work. We welcome a new raffle chairperson, Jamie Campbell. Jamie is hard at work getting things ready for the raffle to kick off first of the year. Products presented several new items and included some for the Youth members. Check out the inventory on the ABATE website.
The Bylaws committee was very busy and have some proposals coming to the membership for a vote in January at the seminar. It's not too late to reserve your room. Check out the ABATE Facebook page for all the info.
Hopefully Mother Nature looks kindly upon us this fall and winter. I don't know about you but I'm looking forward to the slower pace and spending time with friends and family. I hope you all have a fantastic Thanksgiving filled with delicious food and great company!

Debbie
ABATE of Michigan Secretary



ATTENTION!!
Jamie Campbell Region 10
Brandi Painter Region 10
Have announced that will be running for the Board or Directors.

WELCOME RENEWING MEMBERS

PAUL HAMLIN
MICHELE STENDER
ED HAROUTUNIAN
SUSAN H AROUTUNIAN
ROBERT M ROWLES
ANN MARIE DUNSON
MARK MCGARRY
JOE TAYLOR
LEA TAYLOR
JOE WALMSLEY
BYRON WALLACE
BRIAN BEGOLE
MELISSA MITCHELL
JOSH EADS
SHELLY MCGARRY

WELCOME New MEMBERS

MICHAEL GROVER
DAVE CHALLENDER
PAT BRANDT
CHRISTIAN MOTORCYCLISTS ASSOC. MICHIGAN
DOUG & SUE BOS - CHRISTIAN MOTORCYCLISTS ASSOC SW MICHIGAN
EVERETT ELLARD
CHARLETTEE ELLARD
ADRIAN ANDERSON
GEORGE BROWN



Proposed Bylaw Changes - October 2026

Proposed Bylaw changes October 2026

Article IV. Membership

Currently
A. The membership shall be open upon application to anyone of the age of 18 years or more who shall subscribe to the purposes of this organization.

Proposed
A. The membership shall be open upon application to anyone of the age of 18 years or more who shall subscribe to the purposes of this organization.
1. No person that has been convicted of CSC Felony shall be granted a membership.
2. If a person has been convicted of a CSC Felony while a member, they will lose their membership.

Currently

3. Life membership for a one person shall be 15 times the annual membership fee of a full paying member. A Life Member shall pay a yearly fee of $5.00 if the member elects to have the newsletter mailed to them in lieu of reading it on the ABATE website.

Proposed
4. Life membership for a one person shall be ***25*** times the annual membership fee of a full paying member. A Life Member shall pay a yearly fee of ***$20.00*** if the member elects to have the newsletter mailed to them in lieu of reading it on the ABATE website.

Article IV. Membership cont'd

Currently
5. A member for [25] consecutive years shall be given a life membership with a patch and a pin stating life member. Effective February 2026, new members are not eligible for a life membership after 25 consecutive years. They may still purchase a life membership. A Life Member shall pay a yearly fee of $5.00 if the member elects to have the newsletter mailed to them in lieu of reading it on the ABATE website.

Proposed
5. A member for [25] consecutive years shall be given a life membership with a patch and a pin stating life member. Effective February 2026, new members are not eligible for a life membership after 25 consecutive years. They may still purchase a life membership. A Life Member shall pay a yearly fee of ***$20.00*** the member elects to have the newsletter mailed to them in lieu of reading it on the ABATE website.

Currently

G. Expulsion: Any member or Region may be expelled for the following reasons:
1. Nonpayment of dues
2. The conviction of a felony committed during the course of the organizations & activities.

Proposed

G. Expulsion: Any member or Region may be expelled for the following reasons:
1. Nonpayment of dues
2. The conviction of a felony committed during the course of the organizations & activities.
If a person has been convicted of a CSC Felony while a member, they will lose their membership.

Article VI. Officers

Currently
5. Operations Officer
b. To use the Regional Coordinators to disseminate information and coordinate legislative actions (including lobbying) and state events, and to develop and maintain a Regional Coordinator Handbook.
d. To appoint yearly, subject to the approval of the Board, an individual to serve as Sergeant at Arms for ABATE of Michigan, whose responsibilities will include the following, under the supervision and direction of the Operations Officer.

Proposed
5. Operations Officer
b. To use the Regional Coordinators to disseminate information and coordinate legislative actions (including lobbying) and state events, ***at the direction of the legislative officer.***
d. To appoint yearly, subject to the approval of the Board, an individual to serve as Sergeant at Arms for ABATE of Michigan, whose responsibilities will include the following, under the supervision and direction of the ***President.***
e. ***To develop and maintain a Regional Coordinator Handbook.***

Article VI. Officers cont'd

Currently
E. Newsletter Editor
1. The Board of Directors may appoint any member to the position of Newsletter Editor.
2. The function and duties of this position shall be as follows:
a. To publish a minimum of eight newsletters per year.
b. The Newsletter Editor shall ultimately be responsible for the typesetting, assembly and distribution of the newsletter.
c. The Newsletter Editor shall be subject to a quarterly review by the Board of Directors.
d. Payment of further compensation and continuation of appointed position shall be based on this review.

Proposed
E. Newsletter Editor
1. The Board of Directors may appoint any member to the position of ***Webmaster***
2. The function and duties of this position shall be as follows:
a. ***To maintain and update the ABATE of Michigan website on a monthly basis and as needed.***
b. ***The webmaster shall be responsible for the contents and setup of The ABATE of Michigan website.***
c. The Digital Editor shall be subject to a yearly review by the Board of Directors.
d. ***Removed***

Currently
7. Awareness Officer

Proposed
7. Awareness ***Director***

Article IX. Meetings

Currently
B. Board of Directors
1. The Board of Directors meetings shall be held a minimum of every three months. Video technology or other technologies may be used for a board meeting if agreed upon by 2/3 of the board at the annual meeting.

Proposed
B. Board of Directors
1. The Board of Directors meetings shall be held a minimum of every three months. Video technology or other technologies may be used ***at the discretion of the ABATE of Michigan President in lieu of in person meetings.***

Regions:

Currently
4. Regions are to submit a treasury report each month to the ABATE of Michigan Inc. State Treasurer.

Proposed
4. Regions are to submit a treasury report each month to the ABATE of Michigan Inc. State Treasurer ***by the 10 th of the following month***.

Currently
6. Regions are required to contribute a minimum of 75% of their gross net profit to the ABATE of Michigan Inc State Treasurer.

Proposed
6. Regions are required to contribute a minimum of 75% of their gross net profit to the ABATE of

Michigan Inc State Treasurer ***no later than 30 days after the event.***

Currently

7. By Oct. 10th of each calendar year regions must donate funds above $1500.00 to the ABATE of Michigan Inc State Treasurer. No more than $1500.00 shall remain in the regional treasury after Oct. 10th. unless a larger amount is approved by the Operations Officer. The new fiscal year will be Jan. 1st .

Proposed

7. By Oct 10th of each calendar year regions must donate funds above $1500.00 to the ABATE of Michigan Inc State Treasurer. No more than $1500.00 shall remain in the regional treasury after Oct. 10th unless a larger amount is approved by the ***Treasurer.*** The new fiscal year will be Jan. 1st.

Article XI. Finance

B. Compensation

Currently

e. The Vice President shall receive $200.00 per month.

f. The Operations Officer shall receive $200.00 per month.

i. The Awareness Officer shall receive $200.00 per month.

Proposed

e. The Vice President shall receive ***-0- per month. Reimbursed for qualified expenses***.

f. The Operations Officer shall receive ***-0- per month. Reimbursed for qualified expenses***.

i. The Awareness Officer shall receive ***-0- per month. Reimbursed for qualified expenses***.

Article XI. Finance cont'd

Currently

4. Purchasing Agent shall receive compensation from ABATE of Michigan equal to 15% of the gross sales of ABATE products sold.

Proposed

4. Purchasing Agent shall receive compensation from ABATE of Michigan equal to 15% of the gross sales of ABATE products sold. ***Purchasing Agent shall file a detailed monthly financial report to treasurer.***

Currently

5. The Chairman of the ABATE Raffle Bike shall receive $200.00 per month.

Proposed

5. The Chairman of the ABATE Raffle(***s***) shall receive $200.00 per month.

a. T***he ABATE Raffle Chairman shall provide a Monthly financial report to the ABATE State Treasurer.***

Legislative Report - Ed "Bear" Schuitema



Ed "Bear" Schuitema
Phone: 231 907-0710
buckman_4@yahoo.com

In September, at the 2026 Motorcycle Riders Foundation's (MRF) 42nd annual Meeting of the Minds Conference held in Brookfield, WI a legislative strategy session was hosted by the MRF's Legislative Committee. The purpose of the session was to establish and prioritize the MRF's 2027 Federal Legislative Agenda.
Legislative issues fall into one of three priority categories, high, medium and monitor. This list remains fluid and can be adapted depending on the issue and political environment.

Below is a brief description of just the top 12 issues on the MRF's 2027 agenda listed as "High Priority." The January 2027 issue of the American Biker Journal will have more detail on each of these high priority issues as well as the full list of an additional 14 priorities that fall in the "Medium" or "Monitor" classification.

As a reminder, all MRF members receive a copy of the American Biker Journal with their membership.
If you're not a member of the MRF click here to join and support freedom and safety for street motorcyclists in Washington, D.C.

The 2027 Motorcycle Riders Foundation Legislative Priorities List
HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVES:

Autonomous Vehicles: Advocate and monitor any legislation or regulations related to motorcycles concerning connected and autonomous vehicles.

Crash Avoidance: Continue to promote the theme of crash avoidance versus safer crashing urging the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to focus on crash prevention and support rider education by providing funding and other resources.

Data Recording: Pursue legislative language that any collected or available vehicle data is the property of the consumer and in which the consumer has the choice of whether to opt-in to having their personal data communicated to interested parties.

Definition of a Motorcycle: Educate policymakers and advocate for change to the current definition that better reflects the current two and three-wheel motorcycle landscape.

Emission Regulations: Engage the Environmental protection Agency (EPA) & Congress on any activity related to motorcycle emission regulations

Helmet Laws/Equipment Mandates: Oppose any mandatory federal helmet or personal protective equipment/apparel mandates.

Internal Combustion Engines: Work to ensure the survival of internal combustion engines.

Profiling: Sustain lobbying efforts for the passage of resolutions or legislation that promotes awareness and prohibition of motorcyclists profiling.
Renewable Fuels: Advocate for targeted changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS)

Right to Repair/Modify: Protect and advocate for “Right to Repair” provisions that allow consumers the ability to repair and modify their motorcycles.

Surface Transportation Reauthorization (Highway Bill): Advocate and pursue legislative efforts related to the next highway bill reauthorization (the current act is set to expire 2026).

Vulnerable Roadway User Terminology: Monitor and ensure that motorcycles and motorcyclists are a specific and unique category or classification.

Remember a full list of all items on the legislative agenda with further detail will be part of your January issue of the American Biker Journal. Thank you for supporting the MRF.

It’s time to get to work!

Ed "Bear" Schuitema

ABATE of Michigan Legislative Officer

LEGISLATIVE DAYS



Meetings are every 3rd Thursday@ 9AM at the House office building. Parking at the Capitol White House - Lansing

The new 2026 session begins on the second Wednesday in January each year at noon, as per the state constitution.
Contact our Legislative Officer Dave "Bear" Schuitema with any questions. 231 907-0710

Visit legislature.mi.gov for live streams, schedules, and bill tracking Michigan Legislature.

Region Coordinators & Meeting Info

Region 1
Todd Wloszczynski
Phone: 906 250-9303
1966panhead@gmail.com

Region 2
Bernie Winicki
906 287-5706

Region 3
Van Dunson
Phone: 231 676-0760
vanmdunson@gmail.com
Meetings: Johnny's Torch Riviera at 12899 Cherry Rd, Rapid City, Mar, April, May 1st Thursday of the month 6:30pm

Region 4
Dave Etherton
231 818-5277
Etherdav@yahoo.com

Region 5
Larry BamBam Peters
larrykimpw@outlook.com,
231 769-3185

Region 6
Merry Garrett
Phone: 734 652-9739
merrysgarrett@yahoo.com
Meetings: 1:00 pm Second Sunday
Baileys Bar and Grill
Bay City

Region 7
Tim Polk
Phone: 989 670-9976
tpolk3966@gmail.com
Meetings: First Sunday 2PM, Nov.-April at Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club 7394 Bevens Rd. Deford
May - Oct. at Evergreen Park 4731 Van Dyke Rd., Cass City

Region 8
RC - Tara Hendee
Phone: 616 589-1551
tarame7789@yahoo.com
2nd Sunday of the month @4pm
BC Pizza in Dorr
1628 142nd Ave
Dorr MI, 49323

Region 9
Nick Henry
RC & Treasurer
Phone: 517 647-6623
abateofmich.region9@gmail.com

Region 10
Amy Penny
Phone: ***517 290-9134***
abateregion10rc@gmail.com
Meetings 1st Sunday of the month at 3
Evergreen Tavern in Hemlock
Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May July
Ghost Town Saloon in Elwell
Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug

Region 11
Arnold Schneider
Phone: 810- 334-8600
abatemi.region11rc@gmail.com
Meeting:
1st Wednesday of the month at 7pm.
Chicky's in Almont: March, May, July, September & November.
Total Sports in Harrison Twp: April, June, August, October & December.

Region 12
Joylynn Wojciehowski
Phone: 269 599-1767
joylynngerow@att.net.
Meetings: 1st Sunday of the month 1pm
Mar through Dec
Paw Paw Eagles, Lawton

Region 13
Dan "Dano" Kenzie
dkenzie1@hughes.net
Phone: 517 414-8183
Meetings: 1st Sun 12 noon
7901 Benn Rd
Parma, MI. 49269

Region 14
Shiny Bob
shinybob@gmail.com
Phone: 734 417-1369
Meetings: Saline
4th Sunday 4pm
Saline American Legion Post 322

Region 15
Interim RC - Shiny Bob
Meetings: Saline American Legion Post 322 - 4th Sunday of the month 4 pm

Region 16
Jesse Gordy
Phone: 734 957-6033
jesse.gordy76@gmail.com
Read meeting notes for dates and times

Region 17
TBD
Wanted!!...If you ride a motorcycle or anyone you know rides and enjoy the freedom of choice. We are Reuniting the region and spreading the joy of ABATE to the UP. We want to hear from you and help bring the region back strong. Please feel free to reach out to Woody – State Operations Officer, he will help with the process.
Call Woody: 231 884-2192
Email: Dberg01@hotmail.com.

Region 18
Leroy Cuykendall III
Phone: 734 755-3684
bigsexy1665@hotmail.com Meetings: 1st Sunday of the month@ 2pm
VFW Post 1138 400 Jones Ave, Monroe

Region 19
Bill Stewart
Phone: 248 802 7221
harleyhippy@comcast.net
Meetings: 1st Tues 7:00pm
The Shark Club
6665 Highland Road
Waterford 48327

Region 20
Steve (General) Graves
Phone 810 471-5588
Meeting last Sunday of Month 2 PM

Region 21
Interim RC - Vern Shock
Meetings TBD

Region 22
RC - Greg Bennett "Break Down"
Phone: 231 620-6243
Meetings:1st Sunday of the month at 1 pm at the Laughing Horse Saloon at 15888 Lindy Rd Thompsonville, MI

Region 23
Ted Calabrese
Phone: 586 216-4971
whiskers58@gmail.com
Meetings: 2nd Sunday of every month at 1pm at Dead Bear brewery company 2552 South I-75 Business loop Grayling Michigan.



Operations Officer

Dave "Woody"Berg
Phone: 231 884-2192
Dberg01@hotmail.com

REGION 1 - Keweenaw, Baraga, Iron, Ontonagon, Gogebic, Houghton
RC - Todd Wloszczynski
No report this month.

REGION 2
Schoolcraft, Luce, Chippewa, Mackinac
RC - Bernie Winicki
No report this month.

REGION 3 - Antrim, Kalkaska, Charlevoix
RC - Van Dunson

Meeting November 4th, 2026, called to order at 6:30 by Van. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dave (Papa Smurf) followed by a moment of silence for our troops.
Mark read the minutes from October, motion to accept by Ann Marie, seconded by Gina Motion carried.
Treasure report was read by Ann Marie. Motion to accept by Denise, seconded by Gina, motion carried.
Christmas Party is schedule for December 5th at the VFW in Kalkaska. 4- 10 pm everyone is welcome
Discussion about having a meeting everyother month during the winter. Currnent plan is to have a meeting in January, skip February and have a meeting in March.
Region agreed to sell gun raffle tickets at Seminar
Paul had a safety blip: It's time to store the bike, change the oil and filter, fill the tank add stabilizer.
Motion to close meeting was made by Mark, seconded by Ken motion carried.
Next meeting, Saturday, December 5th at 4:30 prior to the Christmas Party at the VFW in Kalkaska.

REGION 4 - Emmet, Cheboygan, Presque Ilse RC - Dave Etherton
No report this month.

REGION 5 - Mason, Lake Oceana, Muskegon, Newaygo
RC - Larry BamBam Peters

We started with the Pledge of Allegiance and then a moment of silence. We would like to thank the people of Region 5 that showed up for the trunk or treats at Sandy Harley Davidson's and Corine's Soul Food restaurant. in Muskegon We would love to see more of our officer's and members next year.
If you made it out there, we checked out a possible new venue for Fall Rodeo. We are trying to lock this in place to have the most time to plan if we move or keep it at Twisting Trails. Have questions, contact an officer or attend a meeting, more to follow.
We voted for Member of the Year, we had a tie, congratulations Jeff and Kim. We did not vote on officer's there is no change.
Upcoming Christmas party at the dirty Dog.
December 6th at 1pm. Everyone is welcome, bring your kids. Santa will be on site, bring a dish to pass and any donations you may have. Rember this event is to support 5 families for Christmas. Would love to see you all there.
Don't forget we have Seminar coming up in January (22nd-24th) If you never been there you should go! ABATE needs you. We will caravan there and back. Let Kim know if you need to reserve a room. Sometimes important things happen here.
Happy Thanksgiving to you all from your Secretary of Region

5 Gail Fowler
Thank you,
Larry Peters
Region 5 RC.

REGION 6 - Gladwin, Arenac, Midland, Bay RC - Merry Gerrett

Pledge
Moment of
Silence. Bob Betson
Treasurer
Secretary read Jim's letter
LO
MRF legislative priorities for 2027

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Surface Transportation Reauthorization (Highway Bill): Advocate and pursue legislative efforts related to the next highway bill reauthorization (the current act is set to expire 2026).
Vulnerable Roadway User Terminology: Monitor and ensure that motorcycles and motorcyclists are a specific and unique category or classification.
Voting:: gentleman Jim will be secretary. Thank u Randi for the job u did
Member of the year
50/50
Christmas party
Sloppy joes Randi/Doug
Dishes to pass
Silent auction???
Seminar
Vote
Bylaws
Board members

Statewide member of The year
A great meeting with members who care. Come on out and give us your time and thoughts.
Stay warm stay happy
Merry Christmas
Happy New Year
Merry.

REGION 7 - Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac
RC - Tim Polk

Abate Region 7 - Meeting November 1, 2026 - Lucky Thumb MC
Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm. Pledge, moment of silence for troops, and prayer.
Attendance 24
Secretary report - read October meeting minutes - motion to accept by Wes, second by Tamara,
motion carried.
Treasurers report - reported on income and expenses from October - motion to accept by Iceman, second by Butch, motion carried.
Legislative – nothing happening due to elections coming up, everyone is campaigning.
Awareness - Tim will be retrieving the awareness signs that Bob Betson was storing in his shed.
Dan Brown volunteered to act as Awareness Coordinator and has space to store the awareness
signs.
Old Business - Discussed developing passbook for 2027. Motion made by Iceman, second by Mike to start committee for this project, motion carried. The committee members are Tim P- Butch B - Jay S - Tamara F- Joan A - Jeff R.
New Business - Vote for region officers - 2027. Elected for 2027 RC Tim Polk, Secretary Leah Pabst, Treasurer Mike Dubs, LO Jeremy (Iceman) Bouvrette, Awareness Dan Brown, and SOA
Rob Sutherland. Member of the year - Bob Betson in Memorial.
December 5 th meeting 2pm and Christmas party after will be at Lucky Thumb MC. Will have a potluck, fun raffle drawing (bring your $5 item) and gift exchange (bring a gift to get a gift). If you are bringing a dish to pass, please let me know what you plan on bringing so I can make a
list! Santa should be there this year, so be good!
Seminar is coming up fast, get your rooms reserved! Hope to see you all there and remember
that Sunday morning is for the MEMBERSHIP to vote on the Board of Directors and any new By-Law changes! At least show up Sunday morning to Vote!
Motion to adjourn made by Butch, second by Tamara.
Hunting season is coming (Gun season), good luck to all the hunters! There's a lot of deer movement going on, so be careful out there!
See you at the seminar.
Tim.

REGION 8 - Ottawa, Kent, Allegan, Barry
RC - Tara Hendee
No report this month.

REGION 9 - Ionia, Clinton, Eaton, Inghan
RC - Nick Henry

Hello Region 9.
As of this report winter is starting to raise it's nasty attitude and the midterms are mostly over, except for Alaska , and come January we will have a whole bunch of new legislators to educate. Like kids in a class, some will listen and communicate with us and some will have their own agenda and intrsrust . Whichever we get our Government will be rebooted and our work will be ongoing.
The seminar will be January 22-23 at Four Points in Saginaw, you need to get your room by December 20 to get theABATE group rate, voting for the board is on the 23rd usually starting around 9am. The theme this year is the 1800s and aside of the informative workshops there will be games, raffles and partying,hope to see you there.
Nick - Region 9 R.C.

REGION 10 - Gratiot, Saginaw
RC - Amy Penny

REGION 10 SECRETARY REPORT
November 1, 2026
-Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
-Meeting called to order at 3:02pm
-Secretary report was given. Correction-add from last meeting the motion $500 was budgeted
for Christmas party. Motion passed
-Treasurer report was given.
-Legislative report was given.
-Member of the year is Sara Villalobos.
-Election of Officers as follows. *RC-Jeremy Ferguson *Sgt at Arms-Ken Townsend *Secretary-
Sara Villalobos *Treasurer-Brandi Painter *Legislative-Jeff Painter *AC-Bob Shock and Chris
Cross *Road Captain-Randy Getchell, Assistant Road Captains Don Cooper, Scott Wymer and
Butch Cornwell *Products-Heather Reeves *Events-Shannon Franz and Lois Shock *Membership &
Welcome committee-Aurora Light *Paparazzi/Social Media-Amy Penny.
-Motion to help 4 families with Thanksgiving meals. 2 Gratiot County, 2 Saginaw County. Motion
carried.
-Jamie Campbell has been appointed Raffle Chair for the ABATE state raffle. She shared that a
sponsor is needed for the raffle license. The AmVets are considering and have invited us to
participate in the Veterans Parade in Big Rapids on November 11.
-It was announced that there are still rooms for the ABATE Seminar in January. Time is running
out though, reserve your room before Dec 20 th to get the group rate. Don't forget the Western
theme.
-There will be a benefit spaghetti dinner for Mike and Jamie to help with medical costs on
December 12 at the Elks lodge in Alma. The hat was passed for a cash donation today.
Upcoming events:
December 5, Christmas Party at Ghost Town.
No December meeting
Next meeting January 3, 3pm at Woody's in Merrill
Seminar, January 22-24 in Saginaw
-Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm
Respectfully submitted
Debra Townsend
Region 10 Secretary.

REGION 11 - Lapeer, St. Clair, Macomb
RC - Arnold Schneider

Hello Everyone,

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Region 11 has gone dark until further notice, and we are still looking for a new Regional Coordinator (RC).

At our last meeting at Chicky's Paradise Saloon in Almont, on November 04 2026, we had a long discussion, but no one was ready to step up to the position. As a result, the decision was made to go dark for now. I am open to discussing this role with anyone who might be interested in taking it over.

If you are interested, please contact Oscar at abatemi.region11rc@gmail.com or 810-334-8600. Please do not contact Dave (Woody) Berg or Merry Gerrett regarding this matter.

Please continue to follow the Region 11 Facebook page for further updates and local event information.
Best regards,

Arnold (Oscar) Schneider

REGION 12 - VanBuren, Kalamazoo, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph
RC - Joylynn Wojciehowski

Sunday November 1st,

Gary started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joy read the Treasury Report.

Bear with the MRF Report - Legislative high priorities for 2027:
1. Robo vehicles
2. Crash Avoidance
3. Data Recording
4. Definition of a Motorcycle
5. Emission Regulation
6. Helmet Laws/Equipment Mandates
7. Internal Combustion Engines
8. Profiling
9. Renewable Fuels
10. Right to Repair/Modify
11. Highway Bill
12. Vulnerable Roadway User Terminology
A full list and more info will be in the January MRF Newsletter.

At the Bikefest in Vegas, colors were banned mid event after being assured they were ok. No one will say you were responsible. Senate Resolution 154 and House Resolution 366, both have language in the 2026 Build America 250 Act bars federal funds for programs that profile motorcycles.

Tesla drops full self driving in Europe. All they did was change the name. We must continue to be vigilant on anything that affects our safety.

Don't forget to vote if you already haven't.

Bear's Quote of the Month: "One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." Plato

Due to the time needed to have the plaques ready for the Seminar, we had to vote for Member of the Year for our Region. Chris Gray is our MotY for Region 12.

We will vote for the Region positions at the December Meeting. If you want to be a part of our Region, this will be your time to shine.

This year's Christmas Party will be at the Paw Paw Eagles after our December 6th meeting with a potluck style dinner and a White Elephant gift exchange. Please bring a dish and a gift with $20 or less value for each person who will attend our party.

The bowling event has been worked out and it will be Saturday March 13th, 2027 at 3 pm to 5 pm in Three Rivers again. See the flyer in the Rider.

We drew for 50/50 and a patron at the bar won. We drew for a bumper sticker and Bear won. We drew for the incentive drawing and Tom W. would have won if he were present.

Joy motioned to close and Gary seconded it. Thank you,

Joylynn Wojciehowski
Region R.C.

REGION 13 - Calhoun, Jackson, Branch, Hillsdale
RC - Dan "Dano" Kenzie
No report this month.

REGION 14 - Livingston, Washtenaw
RC - Shiny Bob

ITS GETTING DARK EARLIER Top cash raffle ticket sales for Region 14 Shiny Bob Region 15 Johnny Rotten,Thank For Given A Shit ,Christmas Party December 20th all Regions are welcome Bring A Dish to Pass, region 14 member of the year Johnny Rotten, no meeting in January we will be at the Seminar, American Legion Post 322 Saline Mi. WATCH FOR DEER and Distracted Drivers,Ride Safe Johnny

REGION 15 - Wayne
Interim RC- Shiney Bob
No report this month.

REGION 16 - Oscoda, Ogema, Alcona, Iosco, Montmorency, Alpena
RC- Jesse Gordy
No report this month.

REGION 17 - Marquette, Dickinson, Menominee, Delta, Alger
RC - TBD
Wanted!!...If you ride a motorcycle or anyone you know rides and enjoy the freedom of choice. We are Reuniting the region and spreading the joy of ABATE to the UP. We want to hear from you and help bring the region back strong.
Please feel free to reach out to Woody – State Operations Officer, he will help with the process.
Call Woody: 231 884-2192
Email: Dberg01@hotmail.com.

REGION 18 - Lenawee, Monroe
RC- Leroy Cuykendall III

We had our regular meeting on November 1st.
The members present voted to approve a slate of current Officers to continue for 2027.
We discussed the up coming election.
All other items on the agenda discussed will be completed by the time you are reading this.
If you are interested in helping LeRoy prep the float for the Ida parade reach out to him.
Next meeting is December 6th.

REGION 19 - Oakland
RC- Bill Stewart

From Region 19
For the December, 2026 Issue of Michigan Rider
The Riding Season is Largely Finished but
the ABATE and MRF Missions Continue

Region 19 met on Tuesday, the 3rd of November when those who were able (and motivated) to attend met around our usual table at Waterford's Shark Club ("too many members to count on a sloth paw!"). A nice dinner was enjoyed by all after which the meeting was called to order at 7:05 by RC Bill. Our Treasurer and our LO (Speedy and Hess) were unable to attend because Speedy's doctor appointment did not begin until way late. A question comes to mind; how is it that patients can sit for hours in waiting rooms but cannot themselves be late for their appointments?

Bill started the meeting with his MRF report that while it did not include much that was really new, that report clearly points out that the Motorcycle Riders Foundation is working hard on a complex set of issues in support of bikers' rights. From the MRF's November/December 2026 issue of American Bikers Journal comes a list of important issues confronting motorcyclists at the national level:

- Protecting the future of Internal Combustion Engines (ICE).
- Supporting the passage of Anti-Profiling Legislation that would prevent abusive interactions between members of law enforcement agencies and bikers who are minding their own business.

- Safely integrating Automated Driving Systems (fully autonomous vehicles) into the traffic mix.
- Consumer Protection and Fuel Transparency, necessary to protect bikers from inadvertently mis-fueling their bikes because of obscure labeling found on fuel pumps and reduced availability of E0 (gasoline with no ethanol) and E10 (gasoline mixed with no more than 10% ethanol).
- Updating the Definition of the Motorcycle, ensuring that side-by-sides and three-wheelers with steering wheels are not classified as motorcycles.
- Defending the Right to Repair, thus protecting independent motorcycle repair shops.
- Holding manufacturers of Driver Assistance Systems accountable when they make deceptive claims about their partial automation systems, labeling them as "Full Self-Driving," for example.

Each of these topics deserves its own complete discussion but we will not attempt to provide that detail in this space. The list does however serve to point out that every member of every ABATE Region in the country really should also be a member of the MRF.

Bill pointed out some other interesting things:
- Mike (one of our regular attendees) sold the winning ticket for ABATE's 2026 cash raffle to one of his rider friends. Way to go Mike!
- ABATE has decided that next year's fund-raiser will be another cash raffle.
- There are approximately 270,000 licensed riders in Michigan (these folks all have "CY" endorsements on their drivers licenses). But it appears that there are about 400K motorcycles being operated in our state. Does this mean that there are 130K unendorsed Michigan riders? That would not be good because unendorsed riders are typically less well trained and thus more likely to be involved in crashes. Higher numbers of crashes and injured riders threaten the freedom to ride for the rest of us.
- ABATE is planning to add some new products to its inventory…sounds like a good excuse to get a new hat!

Regions 19's schedule of upcoming meetings is as follows:
- December 1, 2026 will see our next meeting but ABATE business will be set aside and we will just enjoy one another's company for a little holiday dinner and get-together.
- Region 19 will not hold any meetings in January or February of 2027 but the Region should be well represented at the ABATE Seminar in Saginaw over the weekend of January 22-24.

If you have been waiting for just the right time to come to your first Region 19 meeting, our December gathering might be exactly what you have been looking for. On December the 1st, 2026 we will meet at the Shark Club, 6665 Highland Road, Waterford, MI 48327. We have your seat at the table all ready to go and we hope to see you there.

Hess Bates, Region 19 LO
Reporting for Bill Stewart, Region 19 RC.

REGION 20 - Genesee, Shiawassee
RC - Steve (General) Graves

Meeting called to order at 2:30pm with 8 members present.

Treasurer report: No report.
L.O. report: No report.
Sick call: Nothing.
Old Business: Our Fall Color Ride was pretty good, we had 8 people with 4 bikes and 2 vehicles. Seminar is Jan. 22-24, 2027 at Four Points Saginaw. 4960 Towne Centre Rd., Saginaw. 989-790-5050. Room rate $99 group rate ends Dec.20. Ask for the Abate Block. Theme this year is 1800's/ Western.
Officer elections took place. RC- Steve Graves, Treasurer- Steve Graves, Secretary Julie Warner. Thanks to all that stepped up.
New Business: Field Meet will be June 11&12, 2027 at Clare County Fairgrounds.
The next State Raffle will again be a cash raffle. Tickets should be available after Seminar.
Toy Drive: We will have a Toy Drive for the less fortunate. If you come to next meeting please bring a new unwrapped toy up to $10.
Possible dinner ride/run. Tabled til next meeting.
Open Discussion: Nothing.
Meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm
Until next time, keep the rubber side down.
Steve "General" Graves.

REGION 21 - Oscoda, Clare, Mescosta, Isabella, Montcalm
Interim RC - Vern Shock
No report this month.

REGION 22 - Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Manistee, Wexford
RC - Greg Bennett "Break Down"

Meeting was called to order by Greg at 18:33hrs. at the Laughing Horse Saloon. The pledge was led by Greg, and recited by all followed by a moment of silence for our military, past and present.

A word of welcome was made by Greg, thanking all who were in attendance.

Our Christmas party is set for December 5th at Laughing Horse at 18:00 hrs. Ladies/ladies and gents/gents gift exchange starts at 19:00 hrs. and the band at 20:00 hrs. It was mentioned by Greg that there should be some kids gifts just in case. There is a $20 limit on all gifts. Chey will do the flier for the party. Kids are welcome but need to be gone by 21:00 hrs. The kitchen is open for food but will close at 22:00 hrs There will be live music.

Thanks to the folks who met with Region 10 at Crystal Mountain. It looked like everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Mike for encouraging us to join in the fun for Downtown TC with Ride with Purpose for "Bike or treating" for Halloween. Thanks to all who showed up and also those who showed up to Northern Exposure for Bike or treating there a week or so before Halloween. Motion was made by Karen, second by Ty to have Mike coordinate the events for October 2027, Discussed, Motion carried.

Karen made a motion, Second by Ty that we have a booth at the Cadillac Swap meet and that we pay the charge. This is a great event to get our name out. Discussed and motion carried. Get with Woody when the dates are announced.

Chey presented the treasurers report. Karen made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Greg. Discussed and carried.

Karen presented the minutes from the last meeting. Motion by Ty, seconded by Greg to approve. Discussed and carried.

Ac Mary gave us a challenge to each get 1 new member. Then their name will go into a drawing for something special. She also wanted to know what to do with the remaining t-shirts. Motion was made by Ty, second by Mike to sell at the swap meet and/or give to the new members as supplies last. For the new year of t-shirts the sponsors will pay $100 for their name of the back of the shirt plus aa shirt and for $125 they will also get their name on the trophy. Motion for that was made by Mary, seconded by Ty, discussed and carried.

We discussed the new ABATE bylaw changes. We have a few suggestions that Karen will take these to Woody. We also discussed that we need to be careful on our word choices so we do not misrepresent Abate or our region. We need to remind everyone that everything that is a region event needs to go thru Greg first. Region fundraisers and perks were discussed as well. Karen will bring a print out of all the position descriptions at the January meeting..

Ty gave us a reminder that the daylight is shorter. Please watch out for animals and stupid people or is it stupid animals and people.

In regards to the seminar Karen made a motion and Greg seconded the amount of money that we will use for the seminar basket. Discussed and motion carried. Karen made a motion, seconded by Greg to have Ty be in charge for the basket and pick a theme to go along with the seminar theme. Discussed and Carried.

Karen made a motion to cancel the December meeting so that everyone can have a great time at the party and just relax and enjoy and be ready to go in January. Discussed and motion carried.

Our list of important people is as follows:
Greg Bennett.....RC
Mary Bennett.....AC
Karen.....Secretary
Chey.....Treasurer
Ty.....Sgt. of Arms
.....Legislative Officer
Ty.....Road Captain
Karen Robinson.....Awareness and Michigan Rider
Mike Hansen.....Media

Region 22 was given an awesome piece of art that was done by the guy at the summer party. We put the names of everyone that was at the meeting into a hat and drew a name to become the owner of the art work. Ty was our winner.
Meeting adjourned

REGION 23 - Otsego, Crawford, Roscommon, Missaukee
RC - Ted Calebrese

Region 23 had two events in October. The Fall color ride and dinner was a great time. The weather was nice . The Dead Bear Brewery had a nice dinner menu. The Road Captain did a great job organizing the ride . Lori helping with setup and signed up two new members after dinner.
The other event was the trunk or treat at Family Fare in Grayling. Twisted attitude leather, Tractor supply,
And other members donated candy and motorcycle stickers to the kids.
It was a really fun time.

We are currently discussing some sort of Christmas event.

ABATE of Michigan Classified Ads

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Advertising in the Michigan Rider and on line is the most direct way to reach Michigan motorcyclists.
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⋆ "FOR SALE" biker related items & services only.
⋆ No ads over the phone will be accepted.
⋆ Photos not necessary but can be helpful.



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Region & State Event Photos

Region 10 participating in the Big Rapids AmVets Veterans day parade!





ABATE Region 10
Road Guardian Crash Course Crew







Thanks to the people of Region 5 that showed up for the trunk or treat at Sandy Harley-Davidson's and Corine's Soul Food restaurant in Muskegon





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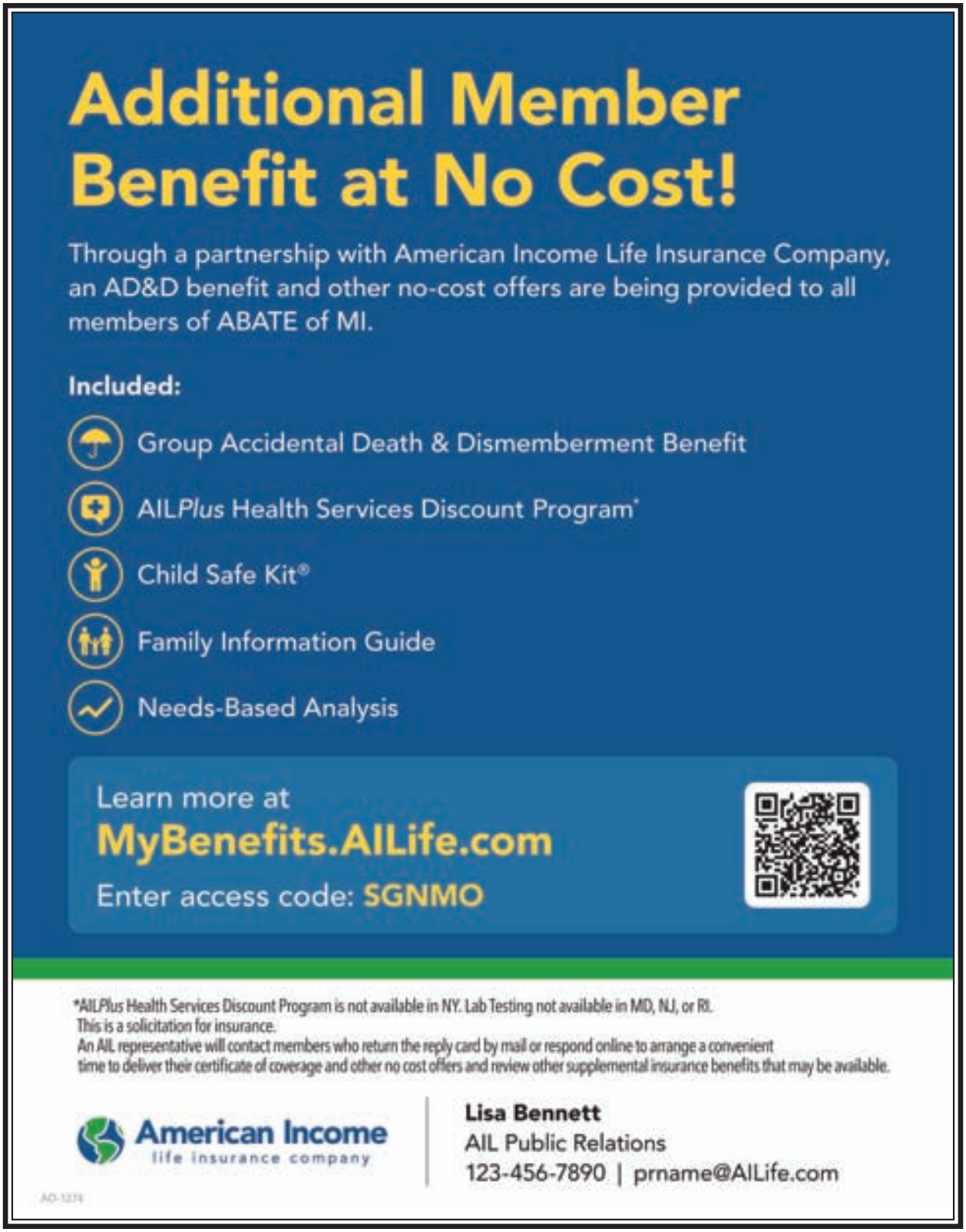


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for the 2027

ABATE SEMINAR AWARDS

A.B.A.T.E. of Michigan's state seminar is held annually at very little cost to the participants. Participants traditionally pay only for the cost of their food and their lodging.

As an ABATE supporter, we would like to again offer you or your business the opportunity to receive recognition by helping sponsor the Seminar Awards.

The Seminar Awards will be held - January 22, 23, & 24, 2027 at the

Four Points by Sheraton Saginaw,
4930 Towne Centre Rd., Saginaw, MI 48604

Four levels of sponsorship are available
Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum

We will recognize all sponsors in the Awards Sponsorship Program by including their name (or business) in the seminar packet distributed to all seminar participants. Sponsors will be introduced on Saturday and the names will be mentioned in the next issue of the *Michigan Rider*. Any business that donates as a Silver supporter will receive one month's free advertisement (business card); a business that becomes a Gold Supporter will receive one free ¼ page ad and any business that becomes a Platinum Supporter will receive a ¼ page ad for 2 months.

All checks must be received by Dec. 20, 2026
to be included in the packet.

Yes, I want to help sponsor the Awards Banquet at the seminar. I am enclosing a check for:

☐ $ 50.00 Bronze ☐ $100.00 Silver (1 free business card ad) ☐ $250.00 Gold (1 free ¼ page ad) ☐ $500 Platinum (2 free ¼ page ad)

Name _____ **Phone** _____
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Make Checks Payable to ABATE of Michigan
then mail to: Debra Townsend –
Secretary of ABATE of Michigan
ABATE of Michigan, Inc., P.O. Box 19, Sheridan, MI. 48884
In order to provide recognition, the check must be received by Dec. 20, 2026

ABATE Region 12 Christmas Party

Sunday December 6th, 2026 1 pm

Paw Paw Eagles
63237 M-40, Lawton, MI 49065

Bring a White Elephant gift, valued $20 or under. We will have a gift exchange after eating.

Please bring a dish to pass.



See you there!

ABATE Region 12
Annual Bowling Event

March 13th, 2027 3 pm - 5 pm

South Lanes Bowling Alley
1147 West Broadway Street Three Rivers, MI 49093

It's that time of year again!!!

Join up for two games of bowling.

$20 per person gets you bowling, shoe rental, two slices of pizza and pop.





TABS for TOTS ~ Tabs are used toward the purchase of medical equipment for Children's Hospital Wards. Also purchase a "Pull Tabs for Tot's" patch for $5. It's a great looking red, white and black round patch with above picture on it. Money from sales are added to the tab fund.
Send tabs and money for patch to:
Stan "The Tabman" Demski
27705 Larchmont. St. Clair Shores, MI. 48081

Michigan Confederation of Clubs

The MCOC represents motorcycle club members and individual motorcyclists alike to fight for everyone's freedoms and rights as bikers. We work with and support ABATE and MRF to ensure what we all enjoy - the freedom of motorcycling without discrimination.
To join and support the MCOC contact
Cappy: cappymc@gmail.com
FB: https://facebook.com/michigancoc
Web: www.mcoc.us
Membership: Clubs $100/year
Individuals ....$ 20/year
Individual Membership includes a patch and member card.

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Classified ads can also be found on our website: https://abateofmichigan.org/classified-ads

CHAIN OF EVENTS

Scan for printable flyers

State Events are highlighted in GOLD
MRF is highlighted in BLUE

Bike Nights are highlighted in GREY
***Legislative Events in Green**

Date	Region	Region & State Events 2026	Contact
Dec 5	Reg 7	Christmas Party & Meeting	Tim: 989 670-9976
Dec 5	Reg 10	Christmas Party	
Dec 5	Reg 22	Christmas Party	Greg: 231 620-6243
Dec 6	Reg 5	Christmas Party	
Dec 6	Reg 12	Christmas Party at 1 pm at the Paw Paw Eagles. Bring a dish to pass	Joylynn: 269 599-1767
Dec 13	Reg 6	Christmas Party 1pm - Baileys	Merry: 734 6529739
		2027	
		2027 ABATE OF MICHIGAN SEMINAR JANUARY 22, 23, 24	Flyer available on line & on Page 23
Feb 21	Reg 5	Bowling - Muskegon Eagles	
Mar	Reg 12	Annual Bowling Event	Joylynn: 269 599-1767
May 1	Reg 5	Membership Bash - The Dirty Dog	
May 14 - 16	Reg 5	Blessing of the Bikes - Baldwin	
July 14 - 18	Reg 5	Bike Time	
Aug 14	Reg 5	Thunder in the Creek	
Aug 15	Reg 5	Picnic	
Aug 26 - 29	Reg 5	Fall Rodeo	
Oct 9	Reg 5	Toy Run	
Dec 5	Reg 5	Christmas Auction/Party - The Dirty Dog	



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*** Processing fees are added when using on line services*

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Life: 15x's annual membership/person □

Life: 15x's annual membership/couple living at same address □

Awareness donation □ _____

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Please make checks payable to ABATE of Michigan, Inc. Voting rights take effect 30 days after application has been received at the ABATE State Office.

Membership fees and donations are NOT tax deductible. Membership fee is nonrefundable.

Clip & Mail to : ABATE of Michigan, INC. P.O. Box 19, Sheridan, Mi. 48884. This form is also available on line: https://abateofmichigan.org/download-forms-%26-files

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American Bikers Aiming Toward Education ~ A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments