

# ABATE of Michigan

*Fighting for the rights of all motorcyclists since 1976*

**Riding free since 2012!!**

*Official Michigan Rider Newsletter*

**January 2026**



**Region 10 held their annual Christmas Party where Vern proposed to Amy. She said yes!**

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**ABATE of Michigan Inc.**

**P.O. Box 99**

**Constantine, Mi. 49042**

**Phone: 269 435-2058**

**[www.abateofmichigan.org](http://www.abateofmichigan.org)**

**American Bikers Aiming Toward Education ~ A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments**

## State Officers

### **President**

#### **Gary Kopta**

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Email: gkopta1@gmail.com

### **Vice President**

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butch6907@yahoo.com

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abateregion10rc@gmail.com

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Phone: 231 884-2192  
Dberg01@hotmail.com

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Phone: 231 907-0710  
buckman\_4@yahoo.com

### **Awareness Director**

Leroy Cuykendall III  
Phone: 734 755-3684  
bigsexy1665@hotmail.com

## Board of Directors

### **Sgt. at Arms**

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### **Products Agent**

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## State Events

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shovelpaann@hotmail.com

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tpolk3966@gmail.com

## Trustees

### **Kim MacLennan**

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macmomma691@yahoo.com

### **Bob MacLennan**

mammomma691@yahoo.com

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lshock330@gmail.com

## Appointees

### **Webmaster & Newsletter**

#### **Silla**

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Cottonwood, Az. 86326

### **PAC Liaison**

#### **Wayne Rogalski**

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/*





# The Prez Report - Gary Kopta

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and now Christmas is only couple weeks away than after that is our annual seminar which is January 23-25.

This year marks ABATE of Michigans 50th year and at the seminar I will be bring poster boards with pictures from the past. They were given to me by VP Butch Brown. I also have some original newsletters from as far back as September 1975 which is before we were incorporated. The newsletters were donated by Karen Forsberg. If you have any memorabilia please bring it along to share with the rest of us.

I know Merry and her committee have worked hard on this event and it has a 1970's theme. So you know its gonna be a good time.

We will have some great breakout sessions and we have some guest speakers lined up. Dondi is going to put on a presentation about the insurance issue which you don't want to miss. This topic is our biggest fight at the moment. We aren't giving up. There will be a breakout session about the history of ABATE of Michigan.

We are also looking for a State Secretary. Eric Eads has been the Secretary for over 15 years and would like to step down and enjoy his retirement. I don't blame him. If you think you may be interested in the Secretary job please come to the seminar and there will be a breakout session to talk about the position. The Secretary has a very important role in the organization. They are basically the hub. They have to make sure everyone from the Treasurer to President gets the materials they need plus send out membership renewals and many other jobs. If you have some computer knowledge you could streamline a few things that he does now. We could really use your help.

The Secretarys position is one of the most important jobs and if you want the job you

will be trained and everyone will assist where they can. We all want the Secretary to succeed so please consider the job. ABATE of Michigan needs you.

In Lansing we do have a bill for lane splitting in the Senate. Not much movement yet but I am sure Bear will update everyone at the seminar. That is another reason you should come.

We are still active in Lansing doing things behind the scenes so we can do a good push next year. I will keep everyone updated and let you know when we need a call to action.

If your still riding make sure to ride safe.

*Gary*



**Phone: 989 781-2306**  
**gkopta1@gmail.com**

**I AM THE MRF**

**Lizzy Cunningham**  
Riding Since: 2014  
MRF Member Since: 2024  
Occupation: Logistics Manager  
Quote: "You can be comfortable or you can be courageous and I choose courageous."

Since 1987 the MRF has been the only national motorcyclists' rights organization dedicated to on-street riders with full time representation in Washington, D.C.

Join Support

© 2024 Michigan Motorcyclists' Rights Foundation | www.mrf.org

# ABATE MEMBERSHIP

Join and Support

**ABATE of Michigan, Inc.**

Fighting for the Rights of

ALL MOTORCYCLISTS since 1976

Join online at [www.abateofmichigan.org](http://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.

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Life: 15x's annual membership/person ☐

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

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**\*\*Processing fees are  
added when you  
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**Complete this form then send it along with your payment to:**

**ABATE of Michigan Inc.,**

**P.O. Box 99**

**Constantine, Mi. 49042**



Scan QR Code  
to visit the  
membership/join  
on line page

**Please make checks payable to ABATE of Michigan Inc.**



## Secretary Report - Eric Eads

Merry Christmas!

Looks like winter has finally arrived. I can't complain. I was riding regularly right up till a few days before Thanksgiving. The 14" of snow we got put an end to it.

After having the position of the State Secretary for 15 years I have decided 2026 will be my last year in this position. If you have any interest in 5 star dining and accommodations, global travel, a lavish salary, and your every need taken care of, this position is not for you. If you want to get more involved in ABATE, have voice in its direction, maybe it's for you. I will have a brief presentation at the Seminar for anyone who may be interested, and what you can expect in this position. You can also call me with any questions you may have.



Phone: 269 435-2058  
[abatemichsecretary@frontier.com](mailto:abatemichsecretary@frontier.com)

On November 11th, Speaker Mike Johnson ordered all Representatives to get to Washington for a vote on the government shutdown. At the time, many flights were unavailable due to air traffic controller staff shortages. Congressman Mike Van Order, a Republican from Wisconsin who retired from the Navy after 26 years as a Seal Senior Chief had a different plan. He got on his Harley-Davidson, left Wisconsin where the temperature was 32 degrees rode the 951 miles in drizzle with a high temperature of 40 degrees, and arrived in DC 16 hours later. I would guess he is not your typical politician.

Waymo, the autonomous vehicle subsidiary of Alphabet, is expanding its fleet of driver-less taxis big time. Eleven new cities will now have Waymo on their streets, including Detroit. All I can say is if you see one, stay as far away as possible, and be very afraid.

I will have the lists of members who have passed this year, and Region Members of the year, in next months issue as I have not received all regions information.

AIL, the insurance company that provides the free \$3500 ADD insurance to all current ABATE members will be sending out a mailing to ABATE members. If you are interested in purchasing additional insurance, sign the card that will be sent to you asking for a beneficiary. Someone will contact you to set up an appointment. If you don't want an appointment and are not interested in purchasing more insurance don't sign the card. You still will have the free \$3500 ADD insurance. AIL is an insurance company that is not part of ABATE. AIL provide their services at no cost to members.

Life Members this month, Vince Buffa, John Soucek, and Mark the "Bus" Berger. Awareness donations, John Soucek.

Ride defensively, particularly around Waymo taxis.

*Eric*

# **American Income Life Insurance – \$3,500 AD&D Insurance!!**

## **For being a current member of ABATE of Michigan**



# **ATTENTION**

## **Membership benefits at no cost!**

Through a partnership with American Income Life Insurance Company, servicing working families for more than 60 years, additional benefits are being provided to all members of ABATE of MICHIGAN

### **Membership benefits at no cost to you include:**

- **\$3,500 Group AD&D Benefit**
- **Child Safe Kit®**
- **Family Information Guide**
- **AILPlus Health Services Discount Program\***

You will be receiving or have already received a letter regarding this AD&D benefit and other no-cost offers. Please be sure to return the reply card.

**Or reply online at**  
**[MyBenefits.AILife.com](http://MyBenefits.AILife.com)**

**Enter access code: SGNMO**

An AIL representative will contact members who return the reply card to arrange a convenient time to deliver their certificate of coverage and other no-cost offers and review other supplemental insurance coverage that may be available.

### **For more information, please call:**

**Lisa Bennett**  
AIL Public Relations  
(616) 635-7554  
[AILife.com](http://AILife.com)

\*AIL Plus Health Services Discount Program is not available in NY. Lab Testing not available in MD, NJ, or RI.



## State Event Chair - Merry Garrett

State Events Chair Merry Garrett

Good day my friends,

Just wanted to send an extra special thank you to all that have donated, worked, brought silent and live auction items, went to the breakout sessions and our breakout session leaders that will be at the seminar. This newsletter will be out just before the event. Voting will be Sunday and I am asking for your votes. To remain on the board and to be the chair for State events. With your vote my committee will continue to do the best job for our members.

So come on out and enjoy a great weekend with friends and family.

The field meet is next on the list. We have booked the campground in Harrison (same venue as 2025). We will be ordering the beer, grabbing a band maybe two, collecting items for our auction, games are being planned and the bike show is a go!!!! We are even planning the trophies!!! We will hopefully have a top gun challenge again. Everyone seemed to enjoy it even in the rain.

Wanted to let the regions know that any region that wants to do the games or the bike show let me know. Region 6 has done the bike show for several years and Region 15 has done the games for the last few years. Thank you very much for the extra mile you take. We all appreciate it. I do for sure. I don't have to worry about any of that part of the event. It runs like a well oiled machine.

The dates for the field meet are June 12,13,14. You can come earlier if you want just pay the extra. Flyer and presale tickets will be available at the seminar

But here is my question to you. What would you like to see or have us plan for the field meet!! Do you want a ride planned?? For maybe Friday during the day. Saturday is already a packed day. Do you want a different food vendor??? Do you want cups to buy celebrating our 50th year anniversary!! Tshirts??!!!!

This will again be an adult only weekend. The family event committee is working on an event to have a fun weekend for kids and adults alike.

So just let me know. We always send out a critique sheet at the seminar maybe I need to do one for the field meet too. Also let us know what you thought of the new venue and having the barn in case of bad weather. How else can we keep the lines of communication open.

This is a list of my committee.

I couldn't do this without them. If you noticed you do not have to be on the board to be on a committee Thank you so much

So if you enjoyed yourself at an event be it seminar, field meet or bike raffle weekend, give them a big thank you!!

Pam Fischer

Eric Eads

Butch Brown

Woody Berg

Gina Berg

Joy Gerow

Tom Wright

Dreama Wright

Mark Schickel

Dann (tiny) Patterson

And yours truly, Merry Garrett.

So have a great one, see you at the seminar keep hoping for an early spring.

Your state events chair,

*Merry Garrett*

State Event coordinator



Phone: 734 652-9739

merrysgarrett@yahoo.com

## Michigan Rider Newsletter

The Deadline for newsletter  
submissions is  
the 12th of each month.

\* Please add your Region  
number to the subject line in  
all emails.



**Michigan**

### Confederation of Clubs

The MCOCC 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 MCOCC contact

Trash at: [destrecke/@msn.com](mailto:destrecke/@msn.com)

FB: <https://facebook.com/michigancoc>

Web: [www.mcoc.us](http://www.mcoc.us)

Membership: Clubs .....\$100/year

Individuals ....\$ 20/year

Individuals Membership includes a patch and member card

**UNITED WE  
RIDE**

### When does your membership expire??

Stay up to date and receive your issue of the  
Michigan Rider Newsletter!!

Renew at: [www.abateofmichigan.org](http://www.abateofmichigan.org)

### Send your updated info to:

**ABATE of Michigan State Secretary  
Eric Eads**

**ABATE of Michigan Inc.  
P.O. Box 99**

**Constantine, Mi. 49042-0099**

**E-mail Eric:  
[abatemichsecretary@frontier.com](mailto:abatemichsecretary@frontier.com)**

## WELCOME NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

**JAMES MOREHOUSE**

**ESTER LAMB**

**SANDY ARMSTRONG**

**DAWN SHOWERS**

**DAVID ARCHER**

**JOSH BERG**

**DAWN BERG**



### Where to find us!!



Explore our ABATE of Michigan website at: [www.abateofmichigan.org](http://www.abateofmichigan.org) for information including: Region Event Flyers, Bike nights, RC/Region meeting info, Board and Officer contact info, Officer articles, Forms, Classified, ABATE Supporter ads, our monthly Michigan Rider Newsletters, Chain of Events calendar, Document downloads, Maps, Bylaws, Products, MRF, State Events, Legislative updates, Membership forms and online renewal....Everything you need!



We also have a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ABATEOFMICHIGAN>



## ABATE Region 12 Annual Bowling Event

March 14th, 2026 12-2 pm

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

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

Please RSVP to Joylynn with a head count for the day.  
269-599-1767

This is a family friendly event and open to all, not just ABATE members.



Region 6's Member of the Year  
Joan Lawrence



Scan for printable flyers

## *Region 7's Evergreen Park for the State Cash Raffle/Carved In Stone Weekend!*

If you want to reserve a campsite at Evergreen Park for the State Cash Raffle/Carved In Stone Weekend, here is all the contact information for the park:

Evergreen Park

4731 Van Dyke

Cass City, MI 48726

Phone: 989 872-6600

Email: [evergreen@sanilacountyarks.com](mailto:evergreen@sanilacountyarks.com)

Website: [www.sanilacountyarks.com](http://www.sanilacountyarks.com)



Reservations can be made after January 1st! Carved in Stone is held back by site 128, so if you want to be near the Carved in Stone Event people get a site near there. If you want a site near the drawing, get a site closer to the office. There is a map on the website for the park! Don't wait till the last minute, the park was full last year during our event!

# Jason -THE Motorcycle Lawyer<sup>SM</sup>

WINS RECORD **\$27.5 MILLION**

JURY VERDICT FOR  
MICHIGAN MOTORCYCLIST



Injured in a  
motorcycle wreck?

Call **877-BIKER-LAW**  
for FREE strategy session

ABATE LIFE MEMBER  
Jason Waechter



[MotorcycleLawyerMichigan.com](http://MotorcycleLawyerMichigan.com)





## Dates To Save

Bikers Inside The Beltway 2026  
Washington, DC  
Embassy Suites Alexandria Old Town  
May 18 - 19, 2026

42nd Annual Meeting of the Minds  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Sheraton Milwaukee-Brookfield  
September 24 - 27, 2026



Phone: 517 240-0773  
tomrahn@yahoo.com



MRF - The Biker's Voice in Washington, DC since 1987!

- Overturned federal law attempting to blackmail states into passing a mandatory helmet law for all riders.
- Passed legislation banning federal agencies from lobbying against motorcyclists
- Ensured motorcycles are considered in all autonomous (self-driving) vehicle plans
- Protected the motorcycle aftermarket from restrictive federal legislation and ensured that riders can continue to modify their machines
- Actively fighting against motorcycle profiling
- Ensured motorcycle rider concerns are addressed in all federal highway bills
- Working with biker friendly legislators and federal agencies that impact motorcycling for more than 30 years!

Help Support Motorcycling - Join the MRF today!

## Motorcycle Riders Foundation Washington, DC



### Ride with the Leaders™

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Please check if you are a US Citizen  
☐ Check here to NOT receive patches and pins  
☐ Check here to NOT receive MRF Email alerts  
☐ Check here to receive MRF Reports electronically (email)

☐ New  
☐ Renewal Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Motorcycle Riders Foundation - PO Box 9090 - Peoria, IL 61612 - Phone: 202-548-0983 - [www.mrf.org](http://www.mrf.org) - [mrf@office@mrf.org](mailto:mrf@office@mrf.org)

- ☐ Annual Individual Membership \$35  
☐ Auto-Renewal Annual Individual Membership \$35  
☐ Annual Joint Membership \$60  
☐ Auto-Renewal Joint Membership \$60  
☐ Annual Sustaining Membership \$100  
☐ Annual Independent Motorcycle Aftermarket Membership \$100

- ☐ 3-Year Individual Membership \$95  
☐ 3-Year Joint Membership \$140  
☐ Sustaining Membership Club \$100  
☐ Auto-Renewal Sustaining Individual \$100  
☐ Freedom Fighter Donation ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# 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,  
1st Wednesday of the  
month @ 6:30pm

## **Region 4**

**Dave Etherton**

231 818-5277

Etherdav@yahoo.com

## **Region 5**

**Dan Tiny Patterson**

Phone: 231 923-6906  
danieypatterson421@gmail.com.

Meetings: 1st Sun 1pm

## **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

Meetings second  
Sunday of the month  
Location TBD

## **Region 9**

**Nick Henry**

RC & Treasurer  
Phone: 517 647-6623  
abateofmich.region9@gmail.com

## **Region 10**

**Vern Shock**

Phone: 810 922-1168  
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  
joylynnngrow@att.net.

Meetings: 1st Sunday  
of the month 1pm  
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 4th  
Sunday of the month  
post 322. 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  
Wednesday of the  
month at the Laughing  
Horse Saloon at  
15888 Lindy Rd  
Thompsonville, MI

## **Region 23**

**Ted Caleb**

Phone: 586 216-4971  
whiskers58@gmail.com  
Meeting place TBD



## Region Reports



**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**  
No report this month.

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

**REGION 5 - Mason, Lake Oceana, Muskegon, Newaygo RC - Dan "Tiny" Patterson**

This meeting was actually a Christmas party, so not a lot. New officers getting ready to take over soon  
Good Luck to you all ! And a special Thank you to Deb Durose for doing my job when I was unable to Ms. Deb you are appreciated!  
*January 2026*

### **Operations Officer Dave "Woody" Berg**

Phone: 231 884-2192  
Dberg01@hotmail.com

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year,  
Happy Holidays to all from  
Region 5

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

Happy New Year  
Here it is January already.  
Time is flying fast and  
furious. Hope to see you all  
this coming year be it at an  
event, a meeting or another  
regions event/meeting

With the new year here  
our officers stayed the  
same. Joan Lawrence is our  
well deserved member of  
the year, thank you Joan  
for always being my top  
supporter.

I want to try some different  
ideas this year. Change  
some things up. We need  
members young and old  
to Come out and support  
ABATE.

We will be planning more  
events, some different kinds  
of runs. Going to shake

things up a bit. I would also  
like to get more volunteers  
to go to different bike nights  
at different locations. If I  
can ask for just two people  
to attend that would be  
the best. We will always  
support Bubbas events. But  
for those of you that don't  
know Randi and Doug  
started a new adventure  
and bought Topsy Cowboy  
in Pinconning. They  
have a beautiful barn and  
horseshoes pits. It's a perfect  
place to invite regions and  
groups to join us for great  
bike nights or weekend  
events. I would like to set  
up a committee to lead the  
charge of getting this done.  
I will volunteer to help will  
you???

The cost??? You asked. Well  
maybe a few trophies but  
that's the easy part. We need  
the members to come and  
represent

Don't know how many of  
you know this but come  
January you can sign up  
your kiddos and grand kids  
for an ABATE membership.  
And if all goes well they will  
be able to get our insurance.  
From infant till 18. Then  
they sign up for adult  
membership.

The New Year can be  
whatever we want it to be.  
Some have said they want  
changes. Some we can do  
some we cannot but let's

try our hardest to make our 50th year of  
ABATE be the best one yet

We need to get with our reps and not just go to their coffee hours but let's invite them to ours. Yes a coffee hour or luncheon in our neck of the woods. Who doesn't like a free meal. Let invite other regions to let us know how they are making their regions great. I'm proud of mine but we can always do better. Let's work together to make the state stand up and take notice of region 6. We are in the middle let's rise above and be in the top five. I know with the region we have it can be done. It just takes work. If you like these ideas let me know. If you don't come with a good attitude and let's discuss it. Take notes. If it can be done let's do it. If it can't be done and didn't work let's improve it. It takes a village they tell me so let's be that village.

Our meetings will Continue to be at Baileys in Bay City. It's a great spot with a room we can go to if the place is crowded we will revisit this in the spring.

Peace.

Waiting for the sun to Shine

Merry

RC Region 6.

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

ABATE Region 7 - Meeting December 6, 2025.

Meeting called to order at 2pm. Pledge, moment of silence for our troops, and prayer.

Meeting attendance twenty-one people.

Secretary report - November meeting minutes read details with no corrections. Stand as read.

Treasurer report - Provided report of income and expenses from November. Stand as read. Signed up one new member after meeting adjourned.

Legislative Update - Lansing law makers are on break, no new information to report.

State Seminar region raffle item discussed. We still need donations from region members for our raffle!

Also, we discussed the need for region members to participate in our monthly meetings. All members' input at the meetings is important to ensure the lively hood of the region.

New Business - Reviewed region's calendar of events for 2026. There are a couple of corrections to be made and then Tim will submit for the Michigan Rider.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Parcus / support Butch.

Christmas party started after the meeting. Potluck dishes were delicious. Thanks to Ray C's for donating two surprise gift items for us to raffle. Raffle winners were Mark McGarry and Wes Naracon. Santa paid us a visit and handed out the gifts.

Seminar is coming up fast! We will have our Hospitality Room again this year! Please be there on Sunday morning to Vote for your Board members AND the proposed By-Law changes! Your Vote matters!! ALSO, when you are voting, make sure that you fill out the ballot completely! It could mean a big difference in the outcome of who is on the board and who is not! Same thing with the By-Law proposals, it can mean changes in the organization or not! If you do not fill out the ballot, do not complain. Lastly, everyone gets a folder with the schedule of events in it. Along with that schedule is a questionnaire asking how you liked the seminar and what you would like to see changed at the seminar. Fill it out and turn it in when you vote Sunday morning, Please!

Safe travels to and from the seminar and throughout these winter months! Until next month be safe and have a Very Merry Christmas with a wonderful New Year!!  
Tim.

**REGION 8 - Ottawa,  
Kent, Allegan, Barry  
RC - Tara Hendee**

Hello Region 8 Members,  
We had a fantastic time at  
our December Christmas  
Party and Meeting! It was  
wonderful celebrating  
the holiday season with  
all of you. Thank you  
to everyone who made  
it such a fun and festive  
gathering.

We are excited to  
announce that the  
voting for the new  
leadership team has  
been completed! We will  
continue to have the same  
leadership team with one  
change. Please join us  
in warmly welcoming  
Corina Ostrander, our  
new Secretary/Events  
coordinator to the Region  
8 roster. We look forward  
to working together  
and appreciate their  
willingness to serve the  
group!

We want to wish every  
member of Region 8 a  
very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy, Healthy  
New Year! We hope you  
all enjoy this special time  
with your friends and  
family.

Mark your calendars! We  
will be kicking off the  
new year with our January  
Meeting on:

Date: Thursday, January  
11th, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: BC Pizza in  
Dorr.

We encourage everyone to  
attend as we plan for the  
year ahead. We can't wait  
to see you there!  
See you in the New Year!

**REGION 9 - Ionia,  
Clinton, Eaton, Ingham  
RC - Nick Henry**

Hello Region 9, well here  
we are in the real Michigan  
winter and I believe that no  
matter what your political  
or religious belief, as bikers  
, we can all agree on one  
thing, WINTER SUCKS.  
Of course there are a few  
bright spots. Tv sports and  
snowmobiles, if you don't  
mind getting wet cold, a  
party or two, remember  
to get your room for the  
seminar.

MRF reports that the Feds  
are looking at charging  
electric vehicles for their  
road use, also the CAFE  
standards have been rolled  
back so that auto makers  
are not forced to meet those  
standards with electric autos.  
I have Yard signs if any  
nearby regions need them  
at regional cost and I have  
signs for sale to individuals  
for \$10. You can also buy  
signs at the Sunfield bike  
shop or Albion Honda may  
have some left.

Wishing all of you  
Happy Holidays, a Merry  
Christmas, and a Happy  
New Year.

Nick  
Region 9 R.C.

**REGION 10 - Gratiot,  
Saginaw  
RC - Vern Shock**

Hello Region 10 and 21  
There was no meeting this  
month. Wow, where has the  
year gone? Time seems to be  
going faster by the year.

We held our annual  
Christmas party December  
6th at Ghost Town. Great  
turnout, great food and great

time! I would like to thank  
the committee and Ghost  
Town for the great job they  
did.

For those that don't know, I  
surprised and proposed to  
Amy. I don't know why, but  
she said yes. Haha

We are working on a couple  
winter projects to get us  
out of the house. Watch for  
details to come.

Passport book is being  
worked on.

Don't forget to get your  
rooms booked for the  
seminar. This year's theme  
is the 70s. So Saturday night  
dress up in your 70s outfit.

I would like to thank  
everyone who has stepped  
up, supported and even  
joined our region. You are  
all what makes this region  
great. Amy and I can't stress  
it enough. We love and  
appreciate you all. Let's keep  
growing and getting better.

Next meeting is at  
Evergreen January 4th at 3.

This is my last report as  
RC. Amy will take over  
in January and will do  
awesome.

Amy and I want to wish you  
all a Merry Christmas, and  
a Happy New Year. Be safe  
and we will see you all soon.

Respectfully,  
Vern.

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

Greetings from Region 11!  
We held our December  
Monthly Meeting/Christmas  
Gathering at Total Sports on



## Region Photos

### Region 6 Christmas Party

Deb, Merry and Lois. Great friends  
An engagement old RC and the  
new RC Vern and Amy. I was  
honored to be there. Lots of tears and laughter. Check out their page. Amy  
will post all the fun.

Our president Gary Kopta and beautiful wife Debbie.





**Region 6**  
Randi, Doug and Keith.



**Region 8**



Dec 3.  
Prior to the meeting we had our 2nd  
Summer Tour Meeting for 2026.

Discussed:  
Annual Seminar Reminder  
2026 Cash Raffle (prize layout of the raffle,  
date and location)  
2026 field meet date and location.

Short but sweet month.

Merry Christmas to all of you.  
Oscar  
Region 11 RC.

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

Sunday December 7th, 2025.

Gary started the meeting with the Pledge of  
Allegiance.

Joy gave the Treasury Report.

Bear with MRF Report - With the elections  
coming up next November, MRF has  
a survey with questions for candidates  
running for House of Representatives  
and Senate. Please go to MRF.ORG  
website to print copies of the survey, talk  
to the candidates and return the survey to  
MRFPAC@MRF.ORG or mail to MRF  
PAC P.O. Box 3646 Peoria, IL 61612. This is  
very important for our future. May even get  
candidate some money. If you would like  
to donate to the MRF PAC, you must be an  
MRF member and a US citizen, or lawfully  
admitted for permanent residence under  
applicable federal law. If you would prefer  
to donate directly to a candidate, please the  
MRF and ABATE know, along with their  
stand on motorcycle concerns.

As congress prepares to look at Major  
Highway and Transportation Bill, federal  
fees on EV and hybrid vehicles are expected  
to resurface "if you are using our roads  
and bridges, you should be paying into  
that process" stated Transportation and  
Infrastructure Committee Chairman Sam  
Graves. A key part of the debate is on the

federal gas tax, which has been at 18.4 cents  
per gallon since 1993. The Highway Trust  
Fund, funded by the gas tax, faces a growing  
deficit because of inflation and better fuel  
economy, so congress is looking to raise  
money through other means.

MRF is watching this to make sure  
motorcyclist are treated fairly and not  
penalized.

Waymo, the robo car company is expanding  
from 5 cities to 11 in 2026. MRF is  
committed to make sure robo cars can  
detect, recognize and safely respond to  
motorcycles. The feds have been largely  
absent, letting the private sector and states  
take the lead.

A rewrite on the Federal Corporation  
Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards  
is being talked about. It will adjust the  
standards put in place by the previous  
administration that would lead to more EV's  
on the road. Earlier this year, California's  
EPA waiver was revoked which let the state  
set impose stricter emissions rules pushing  
for more EV's. This along with the rollback  
of the CAFE regulations, helps to ensure  
the future of internal combustion engines.

Bear's Quote of the Month - "The  
difference between bigfoot and a politician's  
good conscience is no sightings exist to  
suggest the existence of the latter." Anthony  
P. Mauro, Sr.

We lost member Jeff Maile on July 21, 2025.  
He was an active member since 2008. He  
will be missed.

We had elections and the Region's RC  
will be Joylynn W. as interim until further  
notice. Call or text Joylynn at 269-599-1767.  
If you would like to be the Road Captain,  
that can be arranged. Most other positions  
stayed the same.

For the seminar, our region will be raffling  
off 5 silver coins, 1 oz. each, (5 oz. total)  
tickets are \$5 for one or \$20 for 5 tickets.  
See Eric, or at the seminar, someone from  
Region 12.  
Don't forget to bring items to sell at the  
silent auction and the live auctions. This

helps keep up still a viable protector of motorcycle riders on and off the roads.

Look out for more information when the Pizza and Pop will be this upcoming February (we hope!).

The Region 12 Annual Bowling Event is going to be on Saturday March 14th, 2026. See flyer in the Rider. \$20 for 2 games, shoe rental, 2 slices of pizza and a glass of pop. Any member or non members are able to come and we love to see the kids and grand kids.

The Fall Color Run is planned out and that will be in October with details to follow later on. We need door prizes for that event and you can call Joylynn if you want any donations picked up for the ride, if you don't bring them to the meetings.

The meetings will still be planned for the first Sunday of the month at the Paw Paw Eagles in Lawton, MI.

We drew for 50/50 and Chris G. won the pot. We drew for the incentive drawing and Rich A. would have won if he were present. We raffled off a ticket for the silver coins and Chris G. won.

Eric motioned to close the meeting and Bear seconded it.

Thank you,  
Joylynn Wojciehowski.

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

**REGION 14 - Livingston,  
Washtenaw  
RC - Shiny Bob**

Eric started out the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Dawn and Tony (Pinhead) discussed having a taco dinner on March 28, 2026. Sally will be making up the flyers for the taco dinner. Ann won Region 14's member of the year. Thank you Ann for everything you do for Region 14.

Shiny Bob won member of the year for Region 15. Thank you Shiny Bob for everything you do for Region 14 and 15.

We will not be having a meeting in January. Hopefully a lot of our members will show up for the ABATE SEMINAR.

Have a great Christmas and New Year. See you all in January.

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

**REGION 16 - Oscoda,  
Ogema, Alcona, Iosco,  
Montmorency, Alpena  
RC- Jesse Gordy**

Hello My Fellow Riders,

I hope everything is well with you and your families and your Holiday season was full of Love and Happiness. I also hope your new year has been off to a great start. This year is setting up to be another great one. Lots on the schedule planned statewide.

Keep your eye on the rider and FB pages for any and all updated events.

For any one wanting to join and/or help us in our region 16 please reach out to me. My contact info is listed. Text is best for sure.

**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 started the meeting at 2PM.  
LeRoy gave his RC report. Thanking everyone involved with the Ida Christmas Parade and to those who helped assemble the Float. Followed by SMASH and the LO Report, that went right into the MRF Report. There were just a few Committee Reports. The only New Business to take care of was the election of Officers for 2026. A Motion was made to accept a slate of Officers. A 2nd to the motion was made.  
A voice vote was called and

the ayes carried.  
The Officers for Region 18 for 2026 are the same as 2025.  
The Officers had a tie vote for "Member of the Year".  
So we decided to make it an official tie.  
Our "Members of The Year" for 2025 are Tammy Reece, and Brian Walters.  
The Meeting was adjourned at 2:47PM.

By the time you get this report, the combined Christmas Party for Regions 14 and 18 will be over.  
It is with a heavy heart that I must report the passing of two of our Members just recently.  
Bob Reppe and Jan Ford have crossed over; They will both be missed.  
All the names of those who have passed in 25 has been sent to the Board for Remembrance at our Annual Winter Seminar.  
To close for 25 I would like to wish all of ABATE, and Region 18 a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe 26.  
Peace.  
Submitted by SMASH.

## **REGION 19 - Oakland RC- Bill Stewart**

Report from Region 19  
For the January, 2026 Michigan Rider

When December rolls around and in honor of the Holidays, Region 19's typically informal meetings become even more relaxed as the agenda is reduced to guzzling some good Shark Club grub followed by conversation shared among old biker friends. So it was on Tuesday, December the 4th at Waterford's Shark Club as the Region 19 regulars shook off the cold and gathered 'round the fire.

Following a great meal and after the plates had been cleared, Hess (our LO) opened the conversation with some comments distilled from the most recent Legislative Officer Conference Call. That call had taken place back on the 20th of November, and in the absence of Bear, was chaired by ABATE President Gary Kopta. Some interesting news was shared with the LO's on the call.

1. On the Personal Injury Protection (PIP) front:

- Conversations between Bear and Mike Harris (Chair of the House Insurance Committee) have indicated that there may finally be real hope in the long fight to right the wrongs caused by SB 1 back in 2019. Since July 1 of 2020 when SB 1 went into effect, bikers injured in crashes with cars or trucks had their PIP insurance coverage capped at the limits purchased by the drivers of the cars or trucks.

- This means that an injured biker might face a long and expensive medical recovery with only the very low PIP limits made possible by SB 1.

- There is now hope for a compromise on this. If the cost of treating injuries for a biker suffered in a crash with a car or truck exceed the PIP limit purchased by the operator of that vehicle, bikers would then be able to access the PIP they had purchased as part of their own automobile insurance.

- Such a change would be a great win assuming that the process would actually work as reported, and would be the kind of solution that ABATE has long worked toward.

- Of course, talk alone means absolutely nothing; let's see how this works out as the new year unfolds.

2. Lane Filtering:

- It appears that a Lane Filtering bill may be advanced by ABATE's old friend Senator Ruth Johnson.

- This bill would allow some form of lane filtering so that motorcycles would be able to move to the front of queues of cars at stop lights or when traffic is stopped in construction zones (as examples).

- This would allow bikes to be protected from rear-end collisions as inattentive drivers approached the ends of long lines of stopped traffic.

3. A FOIA Request:

- A request for information was filed by President Gary under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. The request was made regarding the use of monies raised from motorcycle licensing fees. These resources were intended to be used to support motorcycle safety through training programs for riders

and for making other road users more aware of motorcyclists.

- Whether all those funds have been properly used in this way has not been clear.

- The request has resulted in thousands of pages of data, all of which have been given to Dondi for his analysis.

- Stay tuned for more news on this front.

4. Gary spoke about great work done by ABATE's lobbyist, Noel.

- Gary made it clear that without Noel's dedicated efforts, ABATE would probably never have accomplished anything in Lansing.

- Effective lobbyists are indispensable for groups hoping to work in Michigan's complex legislative environment because they understand the political forces that are involved in virtually everything that happens in Lansing. Noel has worked in this world for years and is thus worth every dime that we pay him.

- It was suggested that Noel might want to write a monthly column for the Rider to explain his role in support of ABATE's agenda. We shall watch to see what Noel might have to say.

Region 19 will next meet on the 6th of January, 2026. Please plan to join us at the Shark Club, 6665 Highland Rd. in Waterford at 6:00 o'clock for dinner. The meeting will follow at 7:00 as our Region begins to map out plans for the coning year.

We would welcome your input and participation.

Hess Bates, Region 19  
Legislative Officer  
hessbates@att.net.

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

Meeting was cancelled due to road conditions.

**REGION 21 - Oscoda,  
Clare, Mescosta, Isabella,  
Montcalm  
Interim RC - Vern Shock**

Hello Region 10 and 21  
There was no meeting this month. Wow, where has the year gone? Time seems to be going faster by the year.

We held our annual Christmas party December 6th at Ghost Town. Great turnout, great food and great time! I would like to thank the committee and Ghost Town for the great job they did.

For those that don't know, I surprised and proposed to Amy. I don't know why, but she said yes. Haha

We are working on a couple winter projects to get us out of the house. Watch for details to come.

Passport book is being worked on.

Don't forget to get your rooms booked for the seminar. This year's theme is the 70s. So Saturday

night dress up in your 70s outfit.

I would like to thank everyone who has stepped up, supported and even joined our region. You are all what makes this region great. Amy and I can't stress it enough. We love and appreciate you all. Let's keep growing and getting better.

Next meeting is at Evergreen January 4th at 3.

This is my last report as RC. Amy will take over in January and will do awesome.

Amy and I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Be safe and we will see you all soon.

Respectfully,  
Vern.

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

December 2025 Meeting  
RC: Greg Bennett

Meeting was called to order by Greg at 18:40hrs. at the Laughing Horse Saloon. The pledge was led by Ron "Leprechaun", 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 20th at Laughing House 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.

August 21-23, 2026 will be our summer party at the Interlochen Eagles campground. There will be a ride in the Coho Festival Parade on Saturday, we will be in the back of the parade. Greg listed the breakdown of the costs for the weekend. Motion was made by Karen, second by Gina, that we agree with the stated costs to the Eagles for the pavilion, the cooler and clean up with the clean up fee being returned if we do a good job cleaning up. Discussed and motion carried. Motion was made by Gina, second by Leprechaun that Woody be in charge of vendors for the summer party. Discussed and carried. We need band ideas for the party. Get with Greg with those ideas. Leprechaun will be handling the games. Does anyone know of a photographer that would like to be a part of us and take photos?

Our list of important people is as follows:  
Greg Bennett - RC  
Mary Bennett - AC  
Samantha - Secretary  
Chey - Treasurer  
Leprechaun - Sgt. of Arms  
Rob Norton - Legislative Officer

Mike Hansen - Road Captain  
Karen Robinson - Awareness and Michigan Rider

Introductions were made and Cody and Andrew of Taco Tuesday Hooligans were present. We will be teaming up with them to do some rides in the coming year. Their kick off ride will be May 12, 2026. Meet at Classic Motorsports on 31 in Traverse city at 18:00 hrs.

Motion was made by Karen, second by Gina B. to take 10% off our share of the event drawings to be put into an account called the Community Fund. This will help to support what ever we choose in our community. Discussed and motion carried.

The seminar will be held January 23-24 at the Four Points by Sheraton in Saginaw. This will be our 50th anniversary celebration. There will be a 70's theme for Saturday night. There is also a raffle. We are in need of a raffle item. Karen made a motion, second by Mary that Gina B. be in charge of the raffle item. Discussed and carried. Get your items and ideas to Gina B.

Woody states that he has raffle tickets for Abate members only, he has applications for Abate and MRF membership.

The field meet will be held in June at the Clare County Fairgrounds and in October at Evergreen

Park, which will be Region 7's party, will be the drawing for the cash raffle. It was voted on and decided to have a cash raffle this year. The top prize will be 10K. There will be 4 other cash prizes of lesser value. More to come.

If you need some blank Abate cards for you to put your name in get with Greg.

Rob " Big Yeti" stated that our state rep for the area, John Roth, is interested in meeting with us and interested in helping us. Leprechaun gave a big thank you to Big Yeti for making all our fliers. Thanks!

We will be getting t-shirts and will need to get sponsors for them. Karen made a motion, second by Gina B. that Mary B. handle the t-shirts and sponsors. Discussed and motion carried. Get your sponsors to Mary. She already had 2 when we left, Yay!!

Karen mentioned a few save the dates of February 21 for a chili cook off and Erik's ride is May 16th. More to follow on those.

Leprechaun made a motion, second by Mary to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 19:22 hrs.

**Save the dates:** January 23-24 Seminar in Saginaw  
February 21 - Chili Cook off  
May 12 - Taco Tuesday Hooligan kick off ride  
May 16 - Erik's Ride  
June 12-13 - Field meet

August 21-23 Region 22  
Summer party  
October - Cash raffle  
drawing and Region 7  
party.

**REGION 23 - Otsego,  
Crawford, Roscommon,  
Missaukee  
RC - Ted Caleb**  
No report this month.



# MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS

**Look Twice  
Save a Life** & ★

## **BECOME AN AWARENESS SUPPORTER**

Do you want to show your support for our Awareness Program? If you do, please fill out this form and send your check (made out to ABATE of Michigan) to: ABATE of Michigan, P.O. Box 99 Constantine, Mi 49042. Your contribution will assure that we can continue teaching new car drivers to look out for motorcycles. The cost is \$100 per person or business. You will receive a patch and your name will be listed in the newsletter. There will be a year rocker that will be given to you for every year that you contribute.

Name/Business \_\_\_\_\_

Membership ID \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# Are you interested in joining the fight for Motorcycle Rights? Where is your Region?

Region 1) Keweenaw, Baraga, Iron, Ontonagon, Gogebic, Houghton

Region 2) Schoolcraft, Luce, Chippewa, Mackinac

Region 3) Antrim, Kalkaska, Charlevoix,

Region 4) Emmet, Cheboygan, Presque Isle,

Region 5) Mason, Lake Oceana, Muskegon, Newaygo

Region 6) Gladwin, Arenac, Midland, Bay

Region 7) Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac

Region 8) Ottawa, Kent, Allegan, Barry

Region 9) Ionia, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham

Region 10) Gratiot, Saginaw

Region 11) Lapeer, St. Clair, Macomb

Region 12) VanBuren, Kalamazoo, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph

Region 13) Calhoun, Jackson, Branch, Hillsdale

Region 14) Livingston, Washtenaw

Region 15) Wayne

Region 16) Oscoda, Ogema, Alcona, Iosco, Montmorency, Alpena

Region 17) Marquette, Dickinson, Menominee, Delta, Alger

Region 18) Lenawee, Monroe

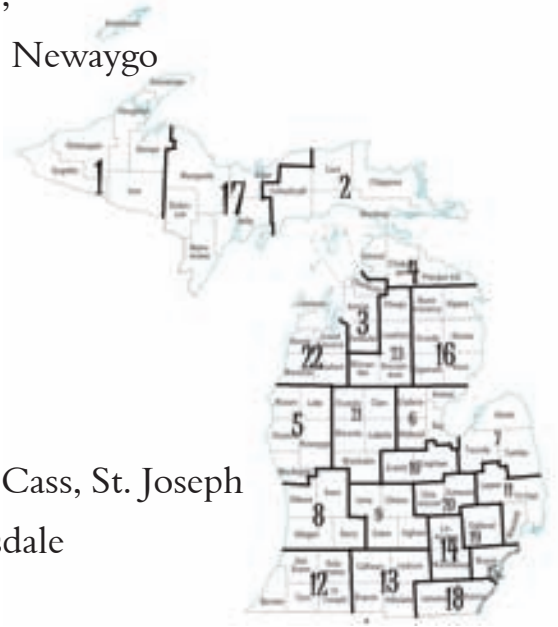
Region 19) Oakland

Region 20) Genesee, Shiawassee

Region 21) Oscoda, Clare, Mecosta, Isabella, Montcalm

Region 22) Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Manistee, Wexford

Region 23) Otsego, Crawford, Roscommon, Missaukee,



Scan the code  
for meeting  
and contact  
info.





## 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](http://legislature.mi.gov) for live streams, schedules, and bill tracking Michigan Legislature.**

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Write a letter to your  
Representative!!*

### Letter Writing and E-Mail.

A personal letter or message via e-mail or the Internet may be the most effective way of contacting your legislator, whether in Lansing or Washington. Consult the Congressional (p. 4), House (p. 31), and Senate (p. 53) directories in this guide to find the addresses of Michigan legislators. Many offices prefer e-mail.

### A Citizen's Guide to State Government.

<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Home/Publications>



If you're new at this type of letter writing, here are some suggestions on how your letters can be most effective: How to write a letter to your representative: Click [HERE](#)

The intent of this CITIZEN'S GUIDE is to provide some of the specific information needed to get in touch with the RIGHT PEOPLE AT THE RIGHT TIME to make your concerns heard. It is hoped that it will be a reference tool that will assist you in your efforts to be heard by public officials.

It is of primary importance that the general public increase its participation in the decision-making process. In order to actuate this input, the citizen must acquire an understanding of the legislative structure and process and then organize concerted efforts to effectively demand representation. Individuals can have an impact on specific legislative proposals, provided it is made at the appropriate time. Organized community and citizens' groups can multiply the impact of that individual effort. Organizing citizens' groups to deal with specific community problems is extremely important. Such groups provide a focal point from which citizens can participate in the decision-making process and influence legislation.

**BECOME A PRECINCT DELEGATE** - Form available on line on the *Legislative & Region LO's* - page

**\* DO NOT SIGN UNTIL THEY ARE NOTARIZED!!!**

### **ABATE Supporter Patch**

**Now available!!!**

**These patches are available to anyone who supports ABATE for \$15.00 - Members and Non-Members.**

**Call Woody or Eric to get yours. You will also get a year patch for each year you show your support. Get yours today!**



### **Eric Eads**

Phone: 269 435-2058  
[abatemichsecretary@frontier.com](mailto:abatemichsecretary@frontier.com)

or

### **Operations Officer**

Dave "Woody" Berg  
Phone: 231 884-2192  
[Dberg01@hotmail.com](mailto:Dberg01@hotmail.com)

# Sustaining Members



**GARY KOPTA - PRESIDENT OF  
ABATE OF MICHIGAN  
ROYAL OAK EAGLE RIDERS  
SEVEN SONS  
SCORPIONS MC  
TWISTED RENEGADES  
SURVIVORS MC  
MOTORCYCLE CLUBS OF  
MICHIGAN  
508 FAB MACHING  
CLASSIC MOTORSPORTS  
UNDERGROUND APOSTLES  
CITADELS MC**



**THUNDER ROADS MICHIGAN  
BAILEYS BAR  
SAWTOOTH WOLVES  
D.J.  
ABATE REGION 7  
GHOST TOWN SALOON  
SKELETON CREW  
CLASSIC MOTOR SPORTS, for the second  
year in a row  
SOLDIERS FOR JESUS MC DETROIT  
CHAPTER**

*Thank You*



## HOW TO BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMBER

Any Business, Club, Individual, Group, ABATE Regions or anyone who believes in Motorcycle Rights & Freedom can donate. Please fill out this form and send your donation to: ABATE of Michigan, P.O. Box 99 Constantine, Mi. 49042. (checks can be made out to ABATE of Michigan) For \$100.00 you will receive a certificate, a sticker, and recognition on the website and The Michigan Rider.

Name/Business/Club/Group/Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# Annual Membership Dues

JOIN  
NOW

On Line - Processing fees applied

- Single 1 Year Membership

On line Newsletter

\$26.00

- Single 1 Year Membership

Mailed Newsletter

\$31.50

- Couple 1 Year Membership

On line Newsletter

\$46.50

- Couple 1 Year Membership

Mailed Newsletter

\$51.50

- Single 2 Year Membership

Mailed Newsletter

\$41.50

- Couple 2 Year Membership

Mailed Newsletter

\$71.50

- Single Life Membership

Mailed Newsletter

\$390.00

- Couple 1 Year Membership

Mailed Newsletter

\$51.50

- Couple 2 Year Membership

Mailed Newsletter

\$73.00

- Couple Life Membership

Mailed Newsletter

\$705.00

Join the cause & become  
a member today!!

Join or Renew your membership by mail -  
Or - Call our office to process your membership  
by using your C/C or PayPal account on our  
website

[https://abateofmichigan.org/  
membership%2Fjoin](https://abateofmichigan.org/membership%2Fjoin)

Contact State of Michigan Secretary  
Eric Eads

Phone: 269 435-2058

ABATE of Michigan Inc.,

P.O. Box 99

Constantine, Mi. 4941-0099

IT DOESN'T  
MATTER  
WHAT YOU RIDE  
WE ALL RIDE  
FOR  
FREEDOM OF  
THE ROAD

Enjoy the Benefits of  
**MEMBERSHIP**

★ FREE with your Membership ★

\* \$3500 Accidental  
Death & Dismemberment  
Insurance

\* Free Classified Ads to  
current members - in the  
newsletter and on line!

☆☆☆

\* Enjoy fun Region & State  
Events  
throughout the year!

## We Want You



## To Ride with Us! Join ABATE of Michigan

ABATE of Michigan, Inc. (American Bikers Aiming Toward Education) is a non profit organization dedicated to preserving the rights and promoting the safe operating practices of Michigan motorcyclists.

ABATE of Michigan is a freedom of choice organization: believing that the rider is best able to decide the type of motorcycle to ride, and the type and extent of safety gear worn. Our primary objective is to monitor motorcycle related legislation and encourage all members to become politically involved. Through public forums, writing letters and meeting elected representatives ABATE of Michigan members have the opportunity to speak their side of the issues and educate others on the needs of Michigan motorcyclists. ABATE works to get legislation and funding for riders education program throughout the state. These programs train thousands of new motorcycles each year. Courses are also offered for the experienced rider. In addition, ABATE members have staged and participated in events raising tens of thousands of dollars and collecting much needed items such as food, clothing and toys for local communities. ABATE of Michigan enables you to become educated both politically and in safe riding practices. ABATE offers you activities and the brotherhood of fellow motorcyclists. ABATE fights for the rights of ALL motorcyclists

to ensure that we and our children will be able to enjoy the freedoms we hold so dear. ABATE of Michigan is open to everyone 18 years or older having an interest in preserving personal freedoms and sharing our goals. Owning a motorcycle is not necessary. Members receive a newsletter covering important issues and information on local, regional and national events. (One newsletter per household). Membership fees & donations are NOT tax deductible. Membership fee is nonrefundable.

*ABATE of Michigan invites you to join us and help make Michigan the best place to ride in the USA.*



ABATE of Michigan State Officers, Board of Directors,  
Trustees, and Appointees Wish you all a Very Merry  
Christmas and a Happy & Safe  
2026 Riding Season!!

CONGRATULATIONS, DONDI VESPRINI  
ABATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR



INJURED IN A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT?

BUCKFIRE  
— LAW —

We'll make it right.

1-855-BUCKFIRE

★★★★★



# CHAIN OF EVENTS



Scan for  
printable flyers

**\*State Events are highlighted in GOLD\***

**\*MRF is highlighted in BLUE\***

**\*Bike Nights are highlighted in GREY\***

<b>Region Events 2026</b>			
Date	Region		Contact
Jan 23 - 24		<b>50th Anniversary Seminar</b> Four Points Motel in Saginaw	
Feb 1	Reg 7	Triathlon & Meeting - Lucky Thumb	Tim: 989 670-9976
Mar 14	Reg 12	Annual Bowling Event - South Lanes Bowling Alley	Joylynn: 269 599-1767
Mar 28	Reg 7	MRF Spaghetti Dinner - Farmers Tavern, Ruth	Tim: 989 670-9976
Apr 22	Reg 7	Adopt-a-hwy trash pickup - Evergreen Park	Tim: 989 670-9976
Apr 24 - 26	Reg 10	Maple Syrup Festival	
May 3	Reg 7	Meeting & Awareness Ride - Evergreen Park	Tim: 989 670-9976
May 18 - 19		Bikers in the Beltway MRF	
May 23	Reg 10	Highland Festival Parade	
May 30	Reg 10	Annual Spring Fling	
June 6	Reg 7	Rest in Peace Ride & Meeting - Evergreen Park	Danny: 989 325-1432
July 11	Reg 7	Scoot & Shoot & Meeting - Farmers Tavern, Ruth	Tim: 989 670-9976
July 11	Reg 10	Annual Poker Run	
Aug 22	Reg 7	Porcupine Bash - Caro VFW	Tim: 989 670-9976
Sept 19	Reg 10	End of Summer Ride/Book Party	
Sept 23	Reg 7	Adopt-a-hwy trash pickup - Evergreen Park	Tim: 989 670-9976
Sept 24 - 27		42nd Annual Meeting of the Minds	
Oct. 2 - 4	Reg 7	Carved in Stone Weekend - Evergreen Park	Tim: 989 670-9976
Oct 10	Reg 10	Color Tour	
Nov 1	Reg 7	Meeting & Chili Cook-off - Lucky Thumb	Tim: 989 670-9976

Dec 5	Reg 7	Christmas Party & Meeting	Tim: 989 670-9976
Dec 5	Reg 10	Christmas Party	



**FOR SALE:** 2008 Harley Ultra w/sidecar (factory) 105 Anniversary Model, 110 cubic inches, 6 speed. Bike is loaded, copper/black two tone in excellent condition. 50,000 miles \$12,500.00 OBO.  
Call: 810 376-4824

**Classified Ads are free to current ABATE of Michigan members as part of your Membership fee!**

*Email ads with pics & description to:  
Michigan Rider Copy Editor  
Silla: [abatewebeditor@gmail.com](mailto:abatewebeditor@gmail.com)*

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



ABATE of Michigan Products Agent

**Kim MacLennan**

**Phone: 989 750-8172**

Email: [macmomma691@yahoo.com](mailto:macmomma691@yahoo.com)

ABATE of Michigan

Products 2026

You can now purchase your items on line in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go online to: <https://abate2025.itemorder.come/>
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

ABATE of Michigan Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving motorcyclist rights, promoting safe operating practices and raising motorist's awareness of motorcycling in Michigan.

Vision: ABATE of Michigan Inc. will work diligently to increase the penalties to anyone who injures or causes a fatality to a motorcyclist or their passenger and will work with other organizations in order to preserve the universal right to a safe, unrestricted motorcycling environment on a state and national level.

ABATE of Michigan, Inc. will expand into other areas, grow in membership and work with other organizations.

ABATE is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the overall rights and promoting the safe operating practices of all Michigan motorcyclists.



ABATE of Michigan  
P.O. Box 99  
Constantine, Mi. 49042  
269 435 2058  
www.abateofmichigan.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT  
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PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



**Disclaimer:** The thoughts & opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors alone and do not necessarily express the views of ABATE of Michigan board & its members.

### Membership Application/Renewal



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_  
County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a registered voter? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ New member ☐ Renewal Your Membership number \_\_\_\_\_

Single \$25 on line ☐ \$30 mail\* ☐ Couple \$45/on line ☐ \$50 mail\* ☐

2 years - \$40/person - \$70/couple ☐

Living at same address ☐ \*Applies to one-year membership only

Life: 15x's annual membership/person ☐

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

Awareness donation ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

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 99 Constantine, Mi 49042



Scan QR Code  
to visit the  
membership/  
join page

This form is also available on line: <https://abateofmichigan.org/download-forms-%26-files>

The Michigan Rider is published a minimum of eight times per year and is distributed to ABATE of Michigan's Full Members, other motorcycle rights groups, and interested advocates around the country. ABATE of Michigan, Inc. and the editor accepts no responsibility for the comments or opinions expressed within this publication.

*American Bikers Aiming Toward Education ~ A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments*