ABATE of Michigan

Fighting for the rights of all motorcyclists since 1976

Riding free since 2012!!

Official Michigan Rider Newsletter

November 2026

Region 5 Color/Toy Run

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American Bikers Aiming Toward Education ~ A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments

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www.abateofmichigan.org

The Prez Report - Gary Kopta

Phone: 989 781-2306
gkopta1@gmail.com

Hello everyone.
The weather is changing and I see many regions taking their fall color tour rides. It's nice to see the region members still doing things together after a busy year.

We had the raffle drawing last week and congratulations to the winners. It only took $10.00 to win $10,000.00. That was a pretty good investment. Thanks to everyone that bought and sold tickets. This is our biggest fundraiser and the proceeds all go to our lobbyist. If we don't have our lobbyist we will be wearing helmets within a year and the insurance industry would be rolling over us like they did back in 2019.

We will be having a Board meeting shortly to find out how we did with the raffle and we will be deciding what type of raffle we are having for next year. We will also be discussing new bylaws for members to vote on at the seminar. It looks like we are going to have some drastic moves financially. So please show up to vote at the seminar. Show up Friday night for the breakout sessions, Saturday will be more sessions and don't forget about the wild west theme. It should be fun.

The election may be over by the time you read this. Hopefully you got out and voted. If you didn't vote you don't get to bitch.

At the end of September some of us attended the MRF's Meeting of the Minds in Milwaukee. Once again it was a good time with plenty of information. It's always fun to see the people you only see couple times a year and learn something to maybe better your organization. There were over 400 people in attendance. If you get a chance you should attend one. Next year is in Rapid City South Dakota so it should be a nice ride and alot of fun. I'm looking forward to it for sure.

The MRF (Motorcycle Riders Foundation) is an outstanding organization. We fight for motorcycle rights on the national level. Face it if DC passes a nationwide helmet law or any law affecting motorcyclists then there is nothing ABATE of Michigan can do about it. It's only $40.00 a year so it's really not that expensive to join considering what we do. Just like us, at ABATE, we at the MRF need members. There is strength in numbers so please join.

Thanks again for listening and thanks for being a member.

Gary
ABATE of Michigan President

MOTORCYCLE RIDERS FOUNDATION
Ride With The Leaders

Join the MRF
https://www.mrf.org/join-the-mrf

ABATE MEMBERSHIP

Join and Support

ABATE of Michigan, Inc.

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

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Email: _____

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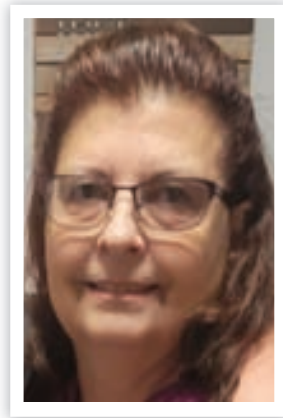
Secretary Report - Debra Townsend



Phone: 269 435-2058
abatemichsecretary@frontier.com

Hello Everyone,

Well, it's been 6 months since I have been the ABATE Secretary. I feel I have settled in well. However, there is still much to learn. Thank you all for your assistance and patients.

The Cash raffle has happened, congratulations to the winners. Planning for the next raffle has already begun. If you have any ideas for a raffle, please let me know.

As we get closer to the end of the year many things are happening. Your Board of Directors is working on bylaw updates, going over nominations for next year's Board and the budget. All will be presented at the Seminar, January 22-24th.

As President Gary stated, get out there and VOTE. This midterm election is more important than before to keep ABATE's interests on the front burner.

Although "Riding Season" is technically over, don't forget to get out there, represent ABATE, plan some events, visit other Regions and get some new members.
Happy Halloween and hope you all have a very good Thanksgiving!

Debbie
ABATE of Michigan Secretary

Don't let your membership expire!!
Stay up to date with new legislative and motorcycle laws and upcoming events.
Renew at: www.abateofmichigan.org

Send your updated info to:

ABATE of Michigan State Secretary Debra Townsend PH: 269 435-2058
ABATE of Michigan Inc. P.O. Box 19 Sheridan, Mi. 48884
E-mail Debra
abatemichsecretary@frontier.com

Mid - Event Colors Ban At Las Vegas BikeFest 2026

Before Las Vegas BikeFest 2026 in North Las Vegas, the Southern Nevada Confederation of Clubs was assured there would not be a "no colors" policy. Midway through the event, colors and cuts were banned. Multiple entities gave shifting explanations, and no one took responsibility for the policy change. Among those banned was the International Vice President of the Soldiers for Jesus Motorcycle Club, an MRF Board Member who had a booth at the event.

"Clubs did what was asked of them. They got assurances and showed up in good faith," said Kirk "Hardtail" Willard, MRF President. "Changing the rules midway through, then refusing to say who made the call, is the kind of treatment riders across this country are tired of."

This is what many in the motorcycling community deal with every day. The MRF has fought motorcyclist profiling in Washington for years, winning passage of anti-profiling resolutions in the Senate (S.Res. 154, 2018) and House (H.Res. 366, 2022) and backing 2026 language in the House BUILD America 250 Act that bars federal funds for programs that profile motorcyclists.

Riders can help. Take the Motorcycle Profiling Project's National Motorcycle Profiling Survey every year. Each year the questions shift to gather new data for future state and federal legislative efforts. What stays the same each year is that the survey includes only five (5) anonymous questions and takes about a minute. Take the survey using the button below.

Data from thousands of past survey participants has been central to the MRF's case on Capitol Hill, and every new response makes that case stronger.

2026 National Motorcycle Profiling Survey

Join the MRF today https://www.mrf.org/join-the-mrf

E15 Push - Industry Data, Misfueling Hazards and the Threat to Michigan Riders

The E15 Push: Industry Data, Misfueling Hazards, and the Threat to Michigan Riders

Whether you are cruising down M-81 through the Thumb, navigating West Michigan, or taking a weekend trip across state lines, the gas pump you pull up to is changing.
While most riders know that ethanol and motorcycle engines don't mix well, a major nationwide push by the biofuel lobby is accelerating the expansion of E15 (fuel containing 15% ethanol). To protect our bikes, our fuel systems, and our freedom of choice at the pump, ABATE members need to understand the numbers, the policy pushes, and the real-world hazards heading toward Michigan forecourts.

1. The Numbers Behind the Push: What's Happening Nationally
To understand why E15 is appearing at more travel plazas and interstate hubs, you only have to look at recent numbers out of the Midwest agricultural corridor.
⋆ Record Iowa Volumes: According to data from the Iowa Department of Revenue highlighted by the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA), Iowa terminals distributed over 46 million gallons of E15 in August 2026 alone. IRFA Executive Director Monte Shaw publicly stated that E15 is officially on track to eclipse standard E10 as Iowa's top-selling fuel for 2026.
⋆ The Federal Legislative Push: The biofuel lobby is using these record Midwestern volume numbers to pressure Capitol Hill into passing the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act (H.R. 1346). Their goal is to mandate year-round sales of E15 nationwide, removing seasonal restrictions.
⋆ Ag Media & Strategic Targets: Reporting by Brownfield Ag News anchor Nicole Heslip following the Farm Progress Show highlighted how regional biofuel advocates are aggressively expanding retail pump infrastructure. At the same time, industry keynotes reveal a long-term commercial strategy targeting heavy shipping—an 80-billion-gallon global marine market—to absorb excess ethanol capacity.
The disconnect is stark: while commercial cargo ships utilize multi-million-dollar dual-fuel systems, zero factory retrofits exist for legacy motorcycles, outboards, or small engines. Everyday riders absorb 100% of the cost when high-ethanol blends damage non-compliant engines.

2. The Technical Reality: Why E15 Harms Motorcycles
Modern automobiles built after 2001 are engineered to tolerate higher ethanol blends, but motorcycles—especially air-cooled models, carb-fed engines, and vintage builds—operate under vastly different thermal and chemical conditions.
A. Lean Running & Excessive Heat Spikes
Ethanol contains roughly 33% less energy by volume than pure gasoline. When an air-cooled motorcycle engine runs on higher ethanol blends without extensive re-jetting or ECU remapping, the air-fuel mixture becomes excessively lean. Lean combustion causes internal cylinder head temperatures to spike dramatically, leading to:
⋆ Thermal stress on valves and pistons.
⋆ Increased susceptibility to vapor lock in hot weather.
⋆ Severe pre-ignition (pinging/detonation) under load.
B. Chemical Degradation & Solvent Action
Ethanol acts as an aggressive solvent. It dries out and strips plasticizers from non-ethanol-rated

rubber fuel lines, petcock diaphragms, carburetor float bowl seals, and internal tank coatings. Over time, this leads to dry-rotting, fuel leaks, clogged jetting, and gummed-up needle valves.

C. The Single-Hose Blender Pump Trap

Perhaps the most immediate danger for motorcyclists at modern gas stations is the shared-hose blender pump.

When a multi-fuel dispenser dispenses E15, E30, or E85 through a single hose, up to half a gallon of that high-blend fuel remains trapped in the internal plumbing and hose from the previous customer.

The Math: If a motorist fills a truck with E15, and a rider pulls up next to fill a small 3-gallon motorcycle tank with Rec 90 (E0) or standard E10, that trapped half-gallon of residual E15 flows straight into the bike first. In a 3-gallon tank, a half-gallon of residual E15 instantly pollutes your entire tank into an unauthorized, high-blend ratio.

3. The Michigan Landscape: Where We Stand Today

While states like Iowa have hundreds of E15 stations, Michigan's penetration remains relatively low—for now.

Currently, public E15 pumps in Michigan are mostly concentrated along agricultural corridors in West and Mid-Michigan (around Ionia, Greenville, Zeeland, and parts of Grand Rapids) at select independent blender pump stations and large travel plazas. Across regions like the Thumb and northern Michigan, local brand-flagged stations (Sunoco, Marathon, Mobil, Shell) still primarily dispense standard E10 or dedicated Rec 90 (E0).

However, as federal infrastructure grants fund station retrofits and state bills surface to encourage blender pumps, the "E15 creep" is moving closer to local neighborhood pumps.

4. What Riders Can Do: Protecting Your Ride & Your Rights

* Watch the Label: Federal EPA regulations require a bright orange "E15 / Up to 15% Ethanol" warning sticker on dispensers selling E15/Unleaded 88. Always inspect the pump before squeezing the handle—especially at large interstate travel centers or unfamiliar stations.
* Seek Out Dedicated Hoses: Whenever possible, fuel up at stations that offer dedicated, single-product hoses for Rec 90 (E0) or standard premium fuel to avoid shared-hose cross-contamination.
* Support Legislative Protections: The State ABATE of Michigan Legislative Team and the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) are actively pushing lawmakers for three key safeguards:
* Guaranteed Access to E0: Statutory protections to ensure ethanol-free fuel remains legally available nationwide.
* Mandatory Dedicated Hoses: Requiring separate hoses on blender pumps dispensing blends above E10.
* Retailer & Blender Liability: Holding fuel blenders accountable when improper labeling or hose sharing results in engine damage.

The Bottom Line....Information is our best tool on the road. By staying aware of pump labels, understanding shared-hose risks, and backing riders' rights advocacy at both the state and national levels, we can keep our bikes running clean and protect our freedom to ride.

Keep your eyes on the pump, check your hoses, and ride safe!

Jeremy "Ice Man" Bouvrette

Advertising in the Michigan Rider Newsletter is the most direct and affordable way to reach Michigan motorcyclists. Ads must be received by the 12th of the month to be printed in the next issue (Black and White ads only). No ads over the phone will be accepted. Discounts are offered for ads running six or twelve consecutive issues. Payment must be received before your ad will be posted. Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt. Please send in PDF, or JPG formats.

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MRF State Rep - Tom "Jinx" Rahn

Phone: 517 240-0773
tomrahn@yahoo.com

As Michigan's 2026 riding season winds down, activity across the state has slowed, but advocacy efforts remain strong. Riders are wrapping up the season while election year campaigning enters its final month, and motorcyclist organizations continue pushing to protect the future of motorcycle culture.

Michigan was well represented at the 2026 Meeting of the Minds, where several members and motorcycle clubs attended to show support for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF). Participants focused on staying informed about national motorcycle issues and learning strategies for recruiting the next generation of riders. Many acknowledge that the traditions long associated with motorcycling are evolving—and that without adapting, the community risks fading over time.

This year, Michigan's State Representative "Jinx" received an award at Meeting of the Minds for signing up the most new MRF members and clubs statewide.

The MRF and MiCOC (Michigan Confederation of Clubs) continue to work together to educate and inform motorcyclists and motorcycle clubs across the state. MiCOC President Lil' John emphasized the importance of involvement, encouraging riders to join organizations such as the MRF and ABATE. "If we're going to do this," he said, "we need to do it right."

During the Milwaukee Meeting of the Minds held September 24–26, 2026, club participation was notably high. Many clubs nationwide are increasingly aligning with Motorcycle Rights Organizations (MRO's) to defend biker rights. One emerging concern discussed was the rapid rise of high powered e bikes, some capable of reaching speeds up to 75 mph. Because many of these riders are underage and frequently involved in crashes, the incidents are often included in motorcycle statistics, complicating safety data.

Fuel quality was another topic of discussion, with Jinx warning riders to avoid gasoline containing E 15, which can cause engine damage in motorcycles.

Progress is being made in bridging the gap between motorcycle clubs and MRO's such as ABATE and the MRF, with repeated reminders that unity is essential when confronting unfair or restrictive legislation. Voting, attendees emphasized, remains one of the strongest tools riders have. Concerns were expressed about losing supportive lawmakers particularly longtime ally Senator Tim Walberg under potential term limit changes. Clubs were urged to stay informed, research candidates, and ask direct questions about where they stand on motorcycle related issues.

Thanks were extended to the clubs that attended recent C.O.C. conferences, along with a reminder that donations help offset travel and advocacy expenses. MRF membership renewals remain a priority, and organizers stressed the need for more clubs to renew and strengthen the statewide effort.

Support the Ride in Freedom Act (H.R. 10067 / S. 5274)

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) applauds lawmakers for defending rider choice with the newly introduced Ride in Freedom Act H.R. 10067 in the House and S. 5274 in the Senate. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R WI) and Sen. Tim Sheehy (R MT), would prevent Washington, D.C., from requiring all motorcyclists to wear helmets. It does not discourage helmet use or ban helmets; it simply restores the decision to the rider, just as many states already allow.

The MRF emphasizes that adults should have the freedom to choose whether to wear a helmet, and riders in the nation's capital deserve the same rights enjoyed elsewhere.

The organization urges motorcyclists to contact their members of Congress and ask them to cosponsor the Ride in Freedom Act, reinforcing that lawmakers need to hear directly from the riding community.

Upcoming Events:
2027 NCOM Convention – Denver, Colorado
Dates: April 16–18, 2027
Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, Denver Tech Center
Address: 7801 East Orchard Road, Greenwood Village, CO 80111
Room reservations are available for $129 per night and must be booked by March 25, 2027. Pre registration must be received by April 9, 2027, otherwise attendees may register with cash on site at the convention.
Next COC meeting: The next meeting is at 8p.m. on Friday, December 4th, 2026, Outlaws MC Westside Detroit Club House

Jinx -MRF State Rep / Brandy Linn - Assistant

Support the Ride in Freedom Act (H.R. 10067 / S. 5274)

Ride in Freedom Act

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation is glad to see lawmakers bringing freedom of choice to Washington, D.C. Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-WI) and Sen. Tim Sheehy (R-MT) have introduced the Ride in Freedom Act, H.R. 10067 in the House and S. 5274 in the Senate, which would stop the District from forcing every rider to wear a helmet. We thank them for standing up for riders and for the principle that adults can make their own decisions on the road.

Let's be clear about what this bill does and doesn't do. The Ride in Freedom Act does not tell anyone to take off their helmet, and it does not ban helmets. It simply puts the choice back where it belongs, with the rider. If you want to wear a helmet, wear one. If you don't, that decision should be yours, not the government's. Riders in many states already enjoy that freedom, and those who live in or ride through our nation's capital deserve the same respect.

The MRF is your voice in Washington, but lawmakers need to hear directly from riders. Stand with us and ask your members of Congress to cosponsor the Ride in Freedom Act.

Outreach Options
Your outreach options will appear here for your review after you enter your address & zip code in space provided.

Scan to take action

Region Coordinators & Meeting Info

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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 October 7, 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.
Van read the minutes from September Motion to accept by Ann Marie, seconded by Gina Motion carried.
Treasure report was read by Ann Marie. Motion to accept by Mark, seconded by Denise, motion carried.
Road clean-up was a great success thanks to our amazing team.
We are still looking for someone to plan this year's Christmas Party.
We had a nice turnout for the Cider Ride.
Member of the year voting took place, and Paul Mort was name member of the year! Thanks, Paul, for all of your hard work.
Mark Shickel is stepping down as Secretary. Thanks, Mark, for all the years you dedicated to the region.
No one was opposed on the ballet so there are no changes other than Mark to the Board.
We are in need of a new Secretary.
Motion to close meeting was made by Mark, seconded by Gina motion carried.
Next meeting, Wednesday, November 4 at Torch Riviera 6:30.

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

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

Hello Region 5,
We opened our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and silent prayer.
Nominations were opened for Officers positions; you all must like the officers we have, since there were no new Nominations. We also opened nominations for Member of the Year, Voting will be in November.
We had our Toy/Color run on Oct 10, man was that a great day, beautiful weather and color.
October 31st we will be out at Sandy's Harley Davidson for their Trunk R Treat from Noon -2, if you can come out, bring your bike! We will be supplying candy from great donations! Man you guys are awesome.
We discussed next year's Fall Rodeo, and a possible change in venue. This will help lower cost and maybe help profits. Want to learn more, come out and listen.
Our next meeting is Nov 1st, don't forget to change your clocks, we will be back at the Dirty Dog.
Our next big event will be the Christmas Party and Auction on December 7th at the Dirty Dog. Auction items are being collected, if you have anything let us know!

We have 5 counties and 5 Families we want to give Christmas to. Please come out and help us make this happen.
I remember Rand saying "Check your Bike before it checks you" this is a great reminder. We had a tail pipe fall of a bike on the Toy run. No one was hurt and the pipe got picked up but man Check them bikes, or they just might Check you! Thank you, Rand, for a great ride and reminding us all to keep up with maintenance on our rides!
See you all next month!

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

Good evening members. From here to there and back again.

Voting for November will take place at our meeting. If you want to run you needed to sign up in October.

Christmas party is around the corner too. Please bring a dish to pass, something to put in a basket as we will put four or five baskets together to have a Chinese auction. You could get your Christmas shopping done. Anything you want to bring will be placed in the basket that goes with it.

Going to try to play some Christmas games and have a Christmas family feud. Are you in??? Santa might even show up.

January is the seminar and you can book your rooms now. The flyer is in the Rider need more info give me a shout.

A board meeting will be held October 17th. Hope to have info for all to bring you up date in what is happening.

Our president of ABATE is asking everyone to vote!! Vote!!! Vote!!! November 3rd. Get out there and get'er done

A few things to look forward to in the New Year! Game nights, craft day for the girls, dinner at Pipes, visiting another region on their meeting nights. Region 10, 7, 22, and 3 are just over an hour for some of us but I really would like to support them Sometime all a region needs is someone to care. They also have Christmas parties we can all attend. Let's find things to be positive and supporting.

I have been sharing the MRF news and the Calls to Action. Hopefully you are getting on your phone or computer and doing this. Or go on the MRF site

We are looking at getting more people to go to our web page for ABATE. Share to friends and family and tell them they can get all the info they need or when meetings are. Let's get some new members in the New Year!!

Not sure how to get on the site, we can help

Do you have your trifold with new address for our wonderful new secretary Deb Townsend?? If not I have them. Come to the meetings and grab one or ten. We also have our kid membership forms. For $10 you can sign up your littles your middles and your teens. They get the same insurance as the adults. Newborn thru 17. It would be a good Christmas present for your kids and their kids.

What are some things you would like to see in the coming year. Not just our region but the whole state. Send me a message or text.

Remember we vote on bylaws and State Board members on Sunday January 24,2027. If you don't come to a meeting and vote or express what you would like to see or you don't come to seminar and vote on Sunday you cannot complain!!!

Hope the sun shines for a little longer, your bonfire burns hot, and the hot cocoa stay hot with melted marshmallows

Peace to you all
Merry.

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

ABATE Region 7 - Meeting October 4, 2026 - Evergreen Park

Meeting called to order at 12:05 pm. Pledge, moment of silence for troops, and prayer by Deb M.
Attendance 25

Secretary report - read September meeting minutes. Motion to accept by Parcus / support Butch.

Treasurers' report - reported on income and expenses from September. Discussed our current awareness funds needed for the large sign maintenance for next year. Need to send funds in our bank account over a certain amount to the state by October 10th. Motion to accept report made by Wes / support Mike.

Legislative update - The legislature has been meeting in Lansing. No new updates on state business. The insurance group is scheduling a meeting with Abate for upcoming discussions on our current insurance issues. All fund income from the cash raffle will go to our lobbyist.

Old business - Tim thanked everyone who helped and made donations for our Carved In Stone event October 2nd and 3rd. There was a good turnout for the event. Barbie won the Nerf Shoot; Karen won the Bag Toss and Deb won the Frisbee Throw!! Congratulations! Our November 1st meeting is going to be our official Officers Election Day! Come and vote for the officers who will run the region!!

New business - Tim attended the Meeting of the Minds in Wisconsin and provided the region with updates from the MRF. The MRF call to action system needs to be replaced with a new system. The MRF membership is shrinking, and they are looking at means to promote new membership. The Call-to-Action software has changed, the company that they had shut down. They do have a new software company and it's up and running! It's similar to the old software, you'll need to put in your zip code to get the letters to the correct Legislators!

The Taylor family thanked the region for our donation to the Epilepsy Foundation event in September.

Shelby began discussion concerning our event fliers that need to be updated and contain more information for the event. Membership needs to assist more in advertising our events to the general public. A media person would be a great asset to the region!

Also, discussed donations to the PAC fund and hospitality room for the January 2027 seminar.

Our November 1st meeting will be held at Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club. Meeting starts at 2:00 pm and after the meeting is our annual Chili Cook Off. Our region's elections will be held also!

December 5th at 2pm is our Meeting and Christmas Party.

Motion to adjourn by Deb / support Bob.

Again, THANK YOU to all who came to our event and who came for the Money Tree Raffle! There is still some riding weather out there so ride when you can but watch out for the deer! There is A LOT of deer movement now, so PLEASE be careful! Even in towns, the deer are a hazard! Nobody can shoot at them in town, so they aren't so afraid of vehicles! So BE CAREFUL!! Until next month, be safe and GOD Bless all!!
Tim.

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

REGION 9 - Ionia, Clinton, Eaton, Inghan
RC - Nick Henry
No report this month.

REGION 10 - Gratiot, Saginaw
RC - Amy Penny

REGION 10 SECRETARY REPORT
October 4, 2026
-Meeting called to order at 3:05pm
-Secretary report was given.
-Treasurer report was given.
-Legislative report was given.

-Congratulations to our very own Lynn Dortch for winning the $5k in the cash raffle. Thank you everyone who sold tickets for an excellent job this year.

-Nominations for officers and member of the year were taken and will be voted on at the November meeting. Make sure to be at the next meeting and cast your vote.
*Member of the year nominees: Chris Cross, Sara Villalobos, Don Cooper, Shannon Franz, Jamie Campbell, Deb Townsend, Melissa and Mike Wright.
-OFFICERS & Committees
*RC-Jeremy Ferguson *Sgt at Arms-Ken Townsend
*Secretary- Alisha Ferguson
*Treasurer- Brandi Painter
*Legislative-Jeff Painter
*AC-Bob Shock and Chris Cross *Road Captain-Don Cooper, Randy Getchell, 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 send $250 to support the seminar. Support, carried.
-Motion to buy back quilt for $230 to raffle off next year. Support, carried.
-Motion to send $5500 to ABATE. Support, carried.

-The End of Summer ride/ party was a great success. Big Thank You to all who helped and participated.

-The Fall color tour ride is October 10th. Meet at Petty Coat Junction in Alma. Kick stands up promptly at 10am. Come at least an hour early if you want breakfast before the ride.

-Upcoming Events
October 10, Color Tour. Overnight event.
November 1, Region meeting, 3pm at Woody's in Merrill
December 5, Christmas Party.
-Meeting adjourned at 4:18pm
-Next meeting November 1, 3pm at Woody's in Merrill

Respectfully submitted
Debra Townsend
Region 10 Secretary

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

Hello fellow ABATE members:

November will be the last meeting that I will be conducting as RC.

Summer Tour party went well. All the book holders appeared to have enjoyed this year's book.

Patty and I attended the 2026 MRF Meeting of the Minds in Milwaukee. Wish there could have been more Region 11 members in attendance. It was a very informative and all around great conference.

We are looking forward to attending next year's conference which will be held in Rapid City, SD. If you haven't been to one of these conferences, I highly recommend fitting it into your schedule if you are able to.

Oscar.

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

Sunday 10/4/26
Gary started the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joy gave the Treasury Report.

Bear with the MRF Report -

MRF October 2026

September 28 USDOT finalized a ruling resetting corporate average fuel economy standards for model years 2022-2031. This protects the industry wide average of 34.9 mpg by 2031, well below the 50.4 mpg protected under rules made in 2024. The standards apply to cars and light trucks, motorcycles are not affected. MRF sees this as defense of the internal combustion engine. The previous rule was seen, even by USDOT as being so high, going to EV's was the only way to meet the standard.

Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act, H.R.8870 has cleared the House Committee in May. Senate Highway Bill won't be introduced until the end of the year. MRF is working to insure the motorcycle friendly parts of H.R.8870 are included in the Senate version.

We are going to have our Christmas Party on December 6th during the regular meeting time at the Paw Paw Eagles. Bring a dish to pass. I will keep record of who will be bringing what starting now.

We made a motion to skip the meetings in January and February due to the weather. We will meet the rest of the year, March through December from now on.

We started to get nominations for the Member of the Year for Region 12. We have two nominees, Chris Gray and Jeff & Julie Hoover, and if you have anyone else to include please notify me as soon as you can. The voting will happen in December at our monthly meeting.

All of the regional positions except a few are open for election. RC, Secretary, Legislative Officer, Sergeant of Arms, Chief Road Captain, Events and MRF are open Please let me know if you would like to run for any of these positions. Voting will take place at our December meeting.

We drew for 50/50 and the winner was Adam B. We drew for the incentive drawing and Jon K. would have won if he were present.

Gary motioned to end the meeting and Bear seconded it.

Thank you,
Joylynn Wojciehowski
Region 12 R.C.

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

REGION 14 - Livingston, Washtenaw
RC - Shiny Bob

The Fall Colors are out. Time to Vote nominations and member of the year October meeting Nominations all positions for regions 14 and 15 also,vote November meeting. Congrats to McGoo for 1,000,000 mile achievements. December 20th Christmas Party - Bring A Dish to Pass. All Regions Welcome. Region 15 is looking for donations for booze basket for seminar, no meeting in January seminar weekend. Meetings 4th sunday of the month American Legion Post 322 Saline Mi. Watch for Deer and Distracted driver's.
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
No report this month.

REGION 19 - Oakland
RC- Bill Stewart

From Region 19
For the November, 2026 Issue of Michigan Rider
Our October meeting was small, but the issues facing motorcyclists remain large.

The standard first-Tuesday meeting that took place on October 6th was our Region's smallest in recent memory, as a number of our regulars were unable to attend. And despite our many appeals, the arrival of new attendees excited about taking part in Region 19 activities also failed to materialize. Regardless, we will "keep on keeping on," warmly inviting all our Oakland County brothers and sisters to come aboard and help pull the rope. And while the voices around the table were few, the threats to motorcycling have certainly not disappeared; the opposite continues to be the reality.

RC Bill reported on the latest from the MRF:
- There are two new bills in Washington (HR 10067 and its Senate companion 55274) that together constitute the "Ride in Freedom Act." If enacted, this legislation would permit adults to ride without helmets in the District of Columbia.
- On the national stage, the Dept. of Transportation finalized a rule lowering Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards from the previous mandate of 50.4 mpg to 34.9 mpg through the years up to 2031. While motorcycles are not included in this legislation, this change effectively repeals former EV mandates which would have been needed to meet the lofty 50.4 mpg target.

Neither Speedy nor Hess (Speedy's lesser-half) was able to attend tonight, so no Treasurer's Report was presented. But the Treasury remains stable and healthy.

And there was no LO Report (our Legislative Officer was absent), but Bill thanked Hess for last month's Region Report in the October issue of Michigan Rider that discussed the need for current and new ABATE members to attend Region 19 meetings. Our Region exists to represent and support all Oakland County riders, to keep everyone informed regarding what is going on with laws, rules and pressure on motorcyclists.

Bill had a few other comments regarding upcoming Region events:
If you are interested in attending a meeting, read the Michigan Rider; all the info is in there.
- Bill has sent out emails to members for whom he has addresses but has seen very few

responses from those emails.

- Bill asks that if you have an email address, let him know so he can send you notices of our meetings.
- ABATE Region 19 will hold two more meetings this year; the first on the 3rd of November at 7:00p with dinner at 6:00p for those who want to eat. The second will take place on Tuesday, December the 1st for our traditional Christmas get-together.
- There will be no meetings scheduled for January or February of 2027 because of potential weather concerns.
- The Stewarts and Speedy Bates are planning to attend the Seminar in January.

Please come out for Our Region's next meeting on November the 3rd at the Shark Club, 6665 Highland Road, Waterford, MI 48327. Please take a bold step forward to help protect motorcycling. It will require all of us working together to ensure that the motorcycle life style continues to survive.

Enjoy the rest of the year, stay safe and God Bless!
Bill Stewart, Region 19 RC.

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

Meeting called to order at 2:10pm with 8 members and 1 guest. Thanks for giving a shit!
Treasurer report was read and accepted.
Sick call: nothing
Old Business:
End of Summer party/picnic was good. Rain quit just in time.
Fall color ride. Oct. 17th with a rain date of the 18th. Meet at O'Reilly Auto Parts in Durand. Park on the East side of lot, Durand Rd, side. KSU at 12. Come with a full tank, gas station next door. Going to Flushing A Drive-In for lunch around 1pm. Then on to Spicer Orchards south of Fenton for cider and donut, which will be the end of the ride. Around 70-75 miles.
The Cash Raffle was drawn on Oct. 3rd. Congrats to the winners.
New Business:
Seminar is Jan. 22-24, 2026. Same place as last year. Four Points Saginaw, 4960 Towne Centre Rd. Saginaw, Mi. Rate is $99/ night. Reservations 989-790-5050 press 0 for front desk, ask for the Abate block. Group rate ends Dec. 20th. This years theme will be 1800's/Western. No donations needed for our Region raffle.
Officer nominations took place. Thanks to those who stepped up and accepted the nomination. Voting to take place at next months meeting.
Open Discussion: nothing.
Meeting adjourned at 2:48pm
Until next month, be safe on two or four.
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"

Region 22, October 2026 Meeting Report

Meeting was held at Laughing Horse and called to order at 18:37 hrs. by Greg.

The pledge was led by Greg and recited by all, followed by a moment of silence.

The minutes from last months meeting were discussed and a motion was made by Ty second by Greg to approve as discussed. Discussed and carried.

Chey presented the treasurers report. Motion by Karen, second by Ty to approve. Motion carried.

No legislative report.

No AC report.

Awareness report: Karen states nothing new.

Old Business: Nothing at this time

New Business: Greg discussed the Christmas party and that the Laughing Horse will split the cost of the band for our Christmas party Motion was made by Greg, second by Mike to split the cost of the band "Strings Attached" for our Christmas party. Discussed and carried. Greg stated that Region 10 will be up to our area on Oct 10 to go to Crystal Mountain around 13:00 hrs. to ride the Alpine Slide and stay in the area overnight. It would be nice to meet up with them, ride the slide, eat and ride with them in our area. Greg stated that he was looking for ideas for the winter months to do as a group. Get with him if you have any ideas. The seminar is January 22-24 and will have a western theme. Strings Attached is available for the summer party August 21, 2027. Greg made a motion to book them for that date, second by Karen discussed and carried.

Karen stated that Erik's Ride is having their chili cook off at the Traverse City VFW on February 20, 2027 from noon till 15:00 hrs. She also stated that the ride is scheduled for May 15, 2027. She stated that there is a pre sale of ride shirts starting soon so we can have them by the ride. Watch for the fliers. Any questions get with Karen.

Ty stated to be vigilant when out riding. There is a lot of craziness out there. Also please watch what you post on Facebook. Taking pictures of accidents and posting them is hurtful to the families of those involved and its hard to retract what's been posted.

Karen met up with CMA at Peegeo's and welcomed them to Region 22. It was a great day for a fall ride.

Nominations were made and accepted by most.
Think about nominations for member of the year for Region 22.

Our next meeting will be November 4, 2026 at 6:30 and will be held at Laughing Horse.

Meeting adjourned

PS: There is a rather funny story regarding Greg and Don and them riding together on one of the recent rides. Its really worth asking about and finding out who rode bitch/backpack.

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

Region 23, October monthly meeting.
We had some small changes to our fall color ride and dinner.
It will be on SUNDAY OCTOBER 18TH. We will be meeting at Tractor Supply in Grayling at 1:30 kickstands up at 2:00 make sure your tanks are full this will be a 2 hour 100 mile ride. Ending at the Dead Bear brewery in Grayling for dinner, live music, raffle and a 50/50. The price is $25 per person or $40 for couples . A limited menu option is included in the price. Dinner at 5:00 pm.
SATURDAY OCTOBER 24TH from 4-8pm, we will be at the Family Fare in Grayling for a trunk or treat event. We will be passing out candy ,stickers and membership applications.
Copper Kettle distillery in Houghton Lake is working with us to have one last event before the snow flies. More details to follow.
BE SAFE ON THE ROADS.

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for the 2027

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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.

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

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Four levels of sponsorship are available
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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
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ABATE of Michigan, Inc., P.O. Box 19, Sheridan, MI. 48884
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Region & State Event Photos

Region 5
Fall Color/Toy Run

Region 14
Region 14 & 15 Congratulating McGoo on 1 Million Documented Miles

ABATE Region 11 Members attending the 2026 MRF Meeting of the Minds.
Left to Right: Arnold (Oscar) & Patty Schneider, Abe & Shelia Lawson, Howard & Vern Hatfield, and Kurt "Hardtail" Willard.

Pictured above is Region 15 Johnny Rotten and McGoo.
This is at the LEAN-N IN Detroit. John won the Circle Challenge at this event.

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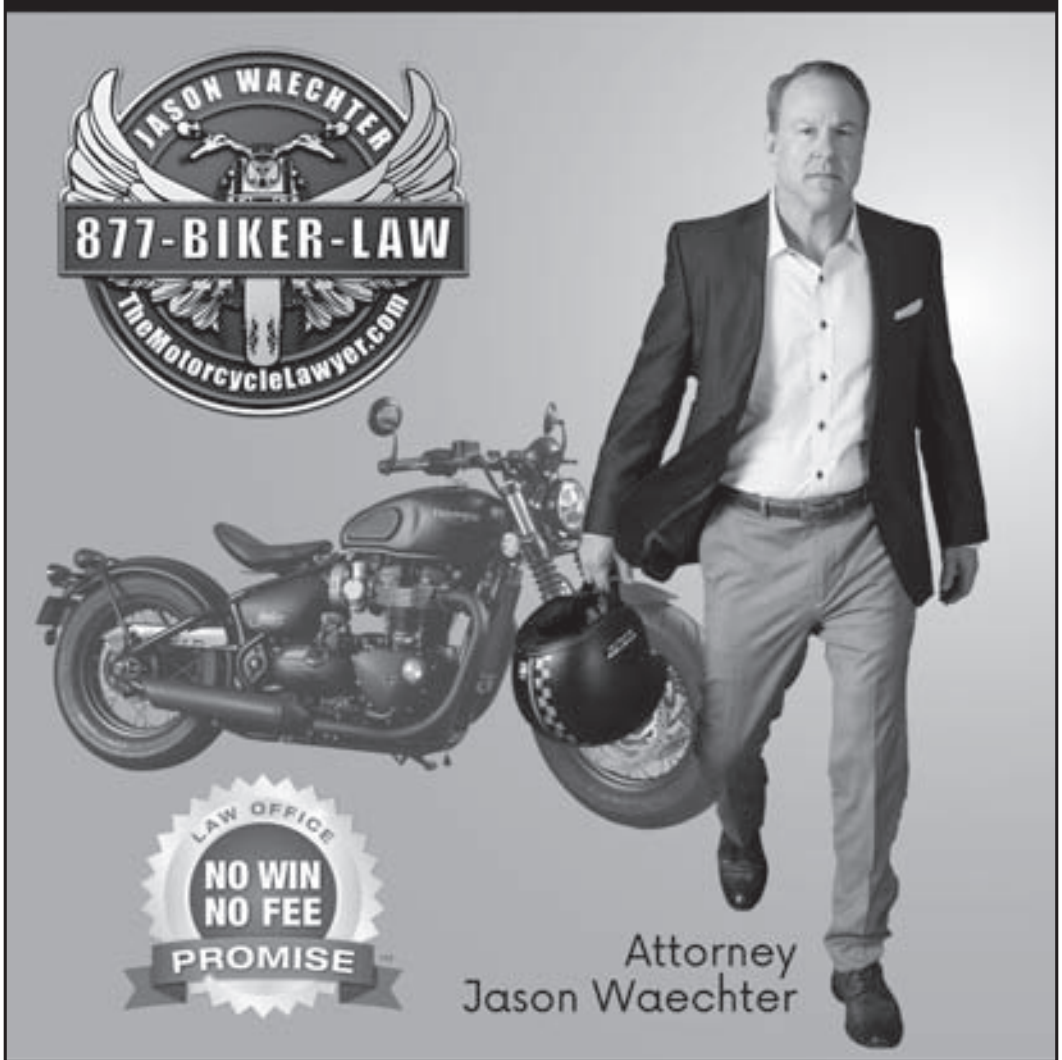

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Send tabs and money for patch to:
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27705 Larchmont. St. Clair Shores, MI. 48081

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

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
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Where to find us!!

Explore our ABATE of Michigan website at: 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

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State Events are highlighted in GOLD
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***Legislative Events in Green**

Date	Region	Region & State Events 2026	Contact
Nov 1	Reg 5	Christmas Auction	
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	
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
Feb 21	Reg 5	Bowling - Muskegon Eagles	
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	

ABATE of Michigan
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269 435 2058
www.abateofmichigan.org

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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 □

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

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 □ _____

Scan QR Code to visit the membership/ join page

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