

# ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

*a Newsletter for Motorcycle Safety & Awareness*

ISSUE 403

FEBRUARY 2017



**A** MERICAN  
**B** ITERS  
**A** IMING  
**T** OWARD  
**E** DUCATION



**NEXT  
CHAPTER  
MEETING  
10 AM**

**February 19,  
2017**  
at American Legion  
Post 222



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# DAY



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\*Please Note\* In order to maintain a "Professional" appearance on this list, you will need an abatese.us email account. NO EXCEPTIONS!! We don't need a sloppy page with many different email addresses. Call Mike Hager to help you get set up.

ABATE of Florida, Inc - www.AbateFlorida.com - flabate@bellsouth.net - (386) 943-9610 (voice & fax)

# WHO WE ARE

- ABATE of Florida, Inc. is a non–profit organization of motorcycle enthusiasts from all walks of life.
- We lobby and educate the government and the general public to promote motorcycling in a safe and positive image.
- We endeavor to enlist the cooperation and participation of all organizations and individuals that share a similar interest in preserving our American tradition of FREEDOM.
- We promote motorcycle safety, training, and political awareness.
- We fund our work by holding a series of annual events at different locations within our service area and other motorcycle activities.
- We are your neighbors and friends who work, pay taxes, and get involved with our community.
- We serve and support our country and believe in freedom.
- We use all legal means to protect our rights without infringing on the rights of others.
- ABATE of Florida, Inc. is incorporated under the laws of Florida as a motorcycle rights organization or MRO. We are currently the only political MRO in Florida representing the interest of its members and the motorcycling public at-large.
- WE ARE NOT A CLUB OR A GANG.

ABATE is open to all individuals age 18 and older interested in motorcycle rights, safety or education. It doesn't matter what you ride or even if you ride. Everyone is welcome to join ABATE of Florida, Inc., which ensures YOUR opinion and views on motorcycle laws will be heard.

There are no requirements to join us and we respect and welcome all motorcycle clubs or any other motorcycle associations or organizations. We do not have any mandatory meetings or rides.

## ***Paid Membership Includes:***

- ABATE Voting Privileges
- Free \$4,000 Accidental Death or Dismemberment Insurance Policy from the American Income Life Insurance Company. As long as your membership is current, you are covered.
- Free classified advertising in the Southeast Chapter and State ABATE newsletters.
- Motorcycle Safety and Educational Updates.
- A full-time ABATE of Florida, Inc. lobbyist who fights for your rights at the state and national levels.



**ABATE of Florida, Inc.**  
PO Box PO 2520  
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(386) 943-9610  
[www.abateflorida.com](http://www.abateflorida.com)



### **Some of ABATE of Florida, Inc.'s Accomplishments**

- On July 1, 2000, we had the 30 year old Florida Helmet law repealed; July 1, 2010 was our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Freedom of Choice.
- We've become the 4<sup>th</sup> largest State Motorcycle Rights Organization (MRO) in the country (IN & IL are 1&2, we regularly switch for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> with PA).
- We got the handlebar heights law modified.
- We successfully fought a bill that would forbid our children from riding on our bikes.
- We successfully fought the bill that would confiscate motorcycles for going 30MPH over the speed limit.
- We developed an effective MSAP program that has raised motorist's perceptions and awareness of motorcycles, and have received funding from the State of FL totaling over \$750,000 to promote motorcycle safety and awareness.
- We successfully fought the bill against vertical tags that had over \$1,100 in fines for a first offense.
- Supported and fought for a texting-while-driving ban for the last few years.
- Our 2009-2010 Stiffer Penalties Bill made it through five of the FL House & Senate's committees; this is the farthest it has gone in the number of years we have tried. On the last day of session, a committee member strenuously attempted to attach a revival of the helmet law to our Bill. To avoid a new helmet law in Florida, we had to kill the Bill.
- We publish monthly Press Releases and/or Articles of Interest in many online & print publications, including Florida Full Throttle.
- The President of ABATE of Florida, Inc. has been asked to be on and currently sits as a member of The Motorcyclist Advisory Council (MAC) to the Federal Highway Administration in Washington, D.C. The Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Transportation may appoint a representative from only two State MROs throughout the entire U.S.A. to be on this council.
- The President of ABATE of Florida, Inc. sits as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Collation of Motorcyclists (NCOM). NCOM has over 1000 member organizations.

**See Page 47 for Membership Application**



## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Hello again brothers and sisters, and thank you for taking the time to pick up and read our newsletter!

On Sunday January 8th, States MC hosted their “Blessing of the Bikes” ceremony and what a great party and turn out! It was my first time at that particular ceremony, and the Reverend Mother did not disappoint! Then the following weekend, January 15th, was Wings of Gold MC’s Biker Appreciation Bash at Alligator Alley Harley Davidson, where there was plenty of great food, music, people and times! I would like to thank everyone involved with the setup, support, and operation of the safety-booth that we had set up at that event!

The following weekend of January 21st through January 22nd was a kin to an emotional rollercoaster ride! First on the night of the 21st was a kick-ass party thrown by Candy’s Cycles for their customer appreciation and Moldy’s 42nd AOA Anniversary. Where it was finally decided that I will now go by a new road-name given to me by the Candy’s Cycles crew (Martin was actually the one who came up with it), “MAGNETO”! Then on Sunday the 22nd, we attended two memorials for two fallen brothers from our community. The first was at Café 27 for Charles “Papa Harley” Kelly, then in the afternoon it was back to the AOA clubhouse for the memorial service and celebration of life for Mystic Seven MC’s brother Wayne “Preacher” Wilson. We will miss you brothers! GBNF

I would like to thank everyone that helped with the setting up, operation, and breakdown of our Safety Booth at the 11th Annual Dania Beach Vintage Motorcycle Show that was held on January 28th, 2017 at Frost Park. It was a huge turnout that was close to tens of thousands and between all of us that work it we managed to get a lot of new members! Critter and myself then headed over to the Keltics MC’s clubhouse where they were throwing a party for their VP “Rattler” which was a great time! Then before calling it a night, Critter and I rode over to Kingdom of Brothers MC’s clubhouse for their open house and had a blast singing and dancing to golden oldies. On Sunday, January 29th we headed over to Cagney’s for Der Krieger MC’s annual party, which was a great time despite the adverse

weather conditions. Loose Cannons were rocking the place pretty good, and there was plenty of good food, good drinks, and good people!

So with that, I thank everyone for their continued support to our chapter and our state organization!

May Saint Christopher, Holy Patron of Travelers, guide and protect you and your loved ones so that you may RIDE FREE AND RIDE SAFE my brothers and sisters!!!

With Honor and Respect,

**MAGNETO**

William G. "Ratchet" Prewitt,  
President  
ABATE of Florida, Inc.  
Southeast Chapter



## New Members For January

*Don Menig  
Herb Saldarini  
James Valinzo  
Tania Senatore  
Laurel Conner  
John Grove*



---

### -- Reminder -- Membership Due For January 2017

Thomas "Pizza-Chit" Albarano  
Emmanuel "Mannster" Ayala  
Bob Beering  
Chas "Chasman" Brandau  
Mike "JR" Brochu  
Craig Burns  
Joe "Cowboy" Byerley  
Darrell "Driver" Byers  
Jeannie "Gypsy" Cline  
Ray "Gator" Cline, III  
David "Dave" Cohen  
Kathy "Kate" Colfax  
Gene "Geno" DiGenova  
James "Jimbo" Drinkwater  
Larry Fay  
Donna "Trouble Maker" Gregory

David "Gimpy" Gregory  
Bruce "Wrench" Henriques  
Henry "SHAGGY" Hugelheim  
Richard "Ziggy" Kaiser  
James "Shaymus" MacAnespie  
Merry "Hell Cat" McAvity  
Ed "Knuckles" Newman  
Etanislao Onorato  
Delora "Goddess of Trouble" Petress  
Jeffrey "Picasso" Smith  
Duncon Smith  
Walter "Flash" Stephens, Jr.  
Chad Stewart  
Ann "Anny" Tusa  
Debra "DEB" Wager

	<p>ATTORNEY <b>BRAD WINSTON</b></p>		<p>WINSTONLAW.COM Davie, Florida 954-475-9666</p>
<p>AT YOUR SIDE ON THE ROAD AND IN THE COURTS</p>			

# Membership Due For February 2017

Karen Bell  
Vito Borzumato  
Jon "Shadow" Bradley  
Richard Fasano  
Craig "Happy Gilmore" Glassman  
Jack Kuharsky  
Malcolm Stewart  
Craig "Throttle off the bottle" Throssell  
Joseph "Sportster Joe" Podojack

Fred Sutton III  
Louis "Lou" Tkacz  
Geri Sciple  
Brad Smith  
Mike "Rogue" Hager  
Richard "J.R." LoCascio  
Barry "Barry HOG" O'Neil



If you have already renewed

*Thank You*

for your continued support



For Membership Renewals contact, George Torrence by either email:  
membership@abatese.us or by phone: 954-560-5547

See Page 47 for Membership Application

**\* PLEASE NOTE \***

You have 30 days from the last day of your expiration month to renew your membership, or be deleted from the State's List. Also (very important) be sure to notify us of any changes.



**Southeast Chapter Meeting Minutes  
Held at the Alligator Alley Harley Davidson  
January 15, 2017**

Ratchet called the meeting to order with 28 members and 1 guest. The meeting started following the Pledge of Allegiance, moment and a prayer by Poppie.

**President's Report:** Ratchet spoke on the Blessing of the Bikes at States MC. He also mentioned we need an updated list of birthdays and other info. We will be placing a plaque for Papa Harley at Café 27 on Sunday, January 22. He then mentioned we will be having a safety booth at the Antique Bike Show in Dania, January 28, 2017.

**Vice-President's Report:** Poppie welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming out to the new spot on short notice

**Secretary's Report:** Marie thanked Critter for filling in for the December meeting while she was taking care of her Mom. A motion was made to accept the minutes as printed. Motion was seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Motion was passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Critter read the financial report for December. A motion was made to accept the financial report, seconded, all were in favor. Motion was passed.

**Sergeant at Arm's Report:** Steve mentioned that at events please remember we also need help taking things down not only putting things up.

**Road Captain's Report:** Excused.

**Safety Director Report:** Prime spoke about checking air pressure on the tires especially when we get a cold snap. He will be needing help for the Antique Bike Show.

**Products Report:** John "Wavy" was excused he is setting up outside for products and safety stuff.

**Events Coordinator:** Jimmy Les resigned from this position. He is very busy with his work. So we will be looking for a new events coordinator.

**State Representative Report:** There was no state meeting this month. Next state meeting is February 11, 2017, in Ocala, FL.

**Membership Report:** George reported we had 4 new members and 6 renewals, for a total of 502 members in the Chapter. A reminder, when submitting all membership forms PLEASE fill them out completely, send it in a timely manner, so that we can read it. Thank you very much for your support and membership to the Southeast Chapter.

**Newsletter Editor:** Critter will be working on the newsletter. All photos are welcome.

**Legislative Report:** Brad spoke on the status of the helmet bill and other bills pending in House and their companion bills in the Senate. For a more detailed report see the notes from Scribe in last month's newsletter. More detail to follow in his month's newsletter.

**Public Relations:** Fern was present. She spoke on her continuing to promote ABATE even if she is not always in present at the meetings.

**Billing and Invoicing:** Pixie was present and said all is going well.

**Social Director Report:** Patty brought the cake for the December birthdays to be enjoyed after the meeting. Nothing was discussed about next month's birthdays.

**Newsletter Distribution:** Poppie reported all is going well. He thanked everyone who has been helping him with the deliveries.

**Quartermaster Report:** Bob was not present.

**Photographer's Report:** This position is open. We are looking for volunteers.

**Web-Master's Report:** Rogue was not present but everything is up and running.

**Legal Council:** Brad had nothing to report.

**Old Business:** The Memorial Day event was briefly discussed.

**New Business:** Our next meeting will be at the American Legion Post 222 in Oakland Park, Florida.

**Good of the Order:** The Wings of Gold Biker Appreciation party is right after the meeting. Candy's Cycle Party & Moldy's anniversary party is Saturday, January 21st at the AOA clubhouse. The Antique Bike Show in Dania is January 28th.

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was called for, seconded, all were in favor. Our next meeting date is February 19, 2017, at the American Legion Post 222, 4250 NE 5th Avenue, Oakland Park.

Hope to see everyone there.

See you on the Road  
Marie Baxter,  
Secretary S. E  
Chapter



Jan 25 at 8:36 PM

Hey Everyone,

The Vulnerable Road Users bills have been filed in both the House and the Senate this week. These will be the VRU bills that ABATE of Florida, Inc. support. Both of the bills will need to have the term Vulnerable Road User defined, but they will include motorcycles once the definitions have been added.



The Senate bill is SB 432 by Sen. Baxley. Senator Baxley has been a longtime friend and supporter of ABATE of Florida, Inc

The House bill is HB 541 by Rep. Stone. Representative Stone is a supporter of ABATE of Florida, Inc. and we look forward to a long relationship with him.

Both of these bills are officially supported by ABATE of Florida, Inc. and I will keep you informed of their progress.

--  
Darrin "Scribe" Brooks  
State Vice President  
State Legislative Trustee,  
ABATE of Florida, Inc.

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The Southeast Chapter Newsletter is published monthly by ABATE of Florida, Inc. Southeast Chapter, PO BOX 292693, Ft. Lauderdale FL 33329-2693. 850 NEWSLETTERS PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

*The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC., or the Southeast Chapter. This publication encourages its members to express their own beliefs and/or opinions. ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. and the Southeast Chapter accepts no responsibility for the opinions, views, or comments contained in this publication. Southeast Chapter reserves the right to edit any article submitted for publication for mis-spellings or inappropriate language, or photos.*

## **Motorcycle Rights & Safety Dedicated to**

### **"Freedom of Choice, Freedom of the Road"**

You may know us as the motorcycle organization that got the helmet law repealed in Florida or from our motorcycle rights and safety rally's throughout the year.

ABATE of Florida is not a club, we are a motorcycle rights & safety organization dedicated to promoting motorcycle safety while remaining ever vigilant of the legislative issues concerning motorcyclists' nationwide.

### **We Are Not ANTI-HELMET, We are ANTI-HELMET Law!**

One of the most popular misconceptions about ABATE is that we are anti-helmet. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are "anti-helmet law" if you choose to ride with or without a helmet it's your choice, it is your right to decide whether wearing a helmet is right for you. ABATE is an organization fighting to protect your rights.

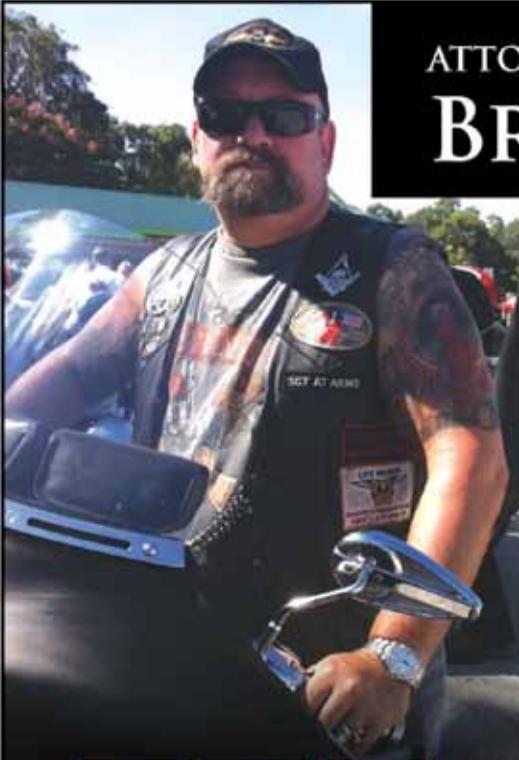
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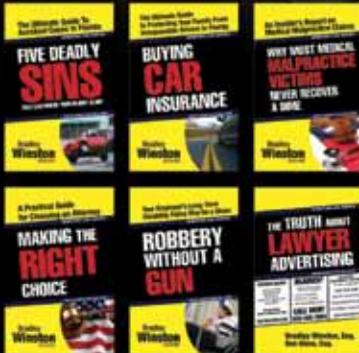


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## *A Message From Your Vice President*



Everywhere I ride I get to talk to different people, usually they are other bikers. The subject we mostly talk about is how dangerous it is to ride the roads in South Florida. Every biker has a near miss or two; the worst stories are about encounters with drivers in cages.

We must realize that we have to be alert and aware of what's around us at all times.

Talking on cell phones, texting, reading, and eating are among some of the things drivers in cages are doing. These things distract them and increase their chances of causing an accident or worst.

So we must try to be aware of what's going around us at all times.

The life you save could be yours.

Be careful out there!!!!

Poppie

VP Southeast Chapter

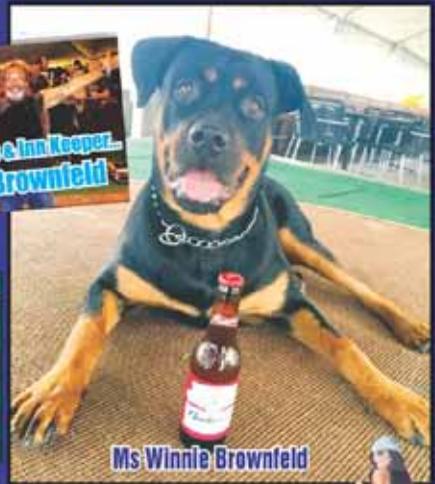


# Hey Everyone... it's Minnie's 1st Birthday Party... come celebrate!



**8PM Friday February 17th**  
**Live Music by Soulcide**  
Bring your pet & have a blast!

Plus... JP SOARS ON THE 10TH  
HIRED GUNZ ON THE 11TH  
ROARING 20'S PARTY WITH DOWN  
DIRTY BOYZ BAND ON THE 18TH  
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## Scurvy Few MC 2nd Yearly Pirate Party



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**Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 2017 4pm to ?**

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Independents Welcome  
Vendors welcome



## **FROM YOUR SAFETY DIRECTOR**



# **BIKES UP, GUNS DOWN... AND THE CONSEQUENCES TO FOLLOW...**



Biker Brother and Sisters, I read the news this morning and I see more injuries and death from the annual Martin Luther King Bikes up, Guns down event. I understand the cause, but do you think that the danger and the casualties that follow each year send the right statement to those that you are trying to inform?

Do you think the message is clear? How do you think you are viewed? Are you viewed as social justice warriors? Or are you viewed as Anarchists that endanger the lives of not only yourselves but of the general public?

I know a vast majority of those involved may never see this article. I know even if they do see this article they will more than likely write it off as someone who just wants to put a damper on their fun because (after all) my love for motorcycles could never have come from riding dirt bikes and ATVs when I was younger. I know what it is to ride and to feel the love to ride. If you are going to ride, ride to survive. Don't ride against the flow of traffic; stop riding recklessly. Martin Luther King, Jr would definitely appreciate the message, but I highly doubt that he would condone the way it is being put out in this case. Ride with some sense about yourself and stop giving police and legislators a reason to pass and enforce laws that infringe upon our rights. In the eyes of the general public, a biker is a biker, the public does not distinguish between what kind of biker you are. If you want to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr... do it in a safer manner.

Ride safe my biker brothers and sisters.....

ABATE Safety Director,  
PRIME



# 2017 Florida House Bills of Interest

Only HB 6009 “Motorcycle Safety” aka The Helmet Bill, is an official ABATE of Florida, Inc. opposed bill. The rest are NOT official ABATE of Florida, Inc. supported/opposed bills. Only the State Delegation can direct ABATE of Florida, Inc. as to which bills we will support or oppose. See pgs. 22-23 for more on HB6009

\*\*\*\*\*  
**HB 6009 - Motorcycle Safety**

General Bill by Hahnfeldt

Motorcycle Safety: Removes provisions authorizing certain persons over 21 years of age to operate/ride motorcycle without wearing protective headgear; provides penalties.

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

**HB 6007 - Traffic Infraction Detectors**

General Bill by Avila

Traffic Infraction Detectors: Repeals provisions relating to installation & use of traffic infraction detectors to enforce specified provisions when driver fails to stop at traffic signal, provisions that authorize DHSMV, county, or municipality to use such detectors, & provisions for distribution of penalties collected for specified violations.

Effective Date: July 1, 2020

**HB 47 - Texting While Driving**

General Bill by Stark

Texting While Driving: Revises penalties for violations of Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law; provides enhanced penalties for such violations when committed in school zone or school crossing; removes requirement that specified provisions be enforced as secondary action by law enforcement agency.

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

**HB 69 - Use of Wireless Communications Devices while Driving**

General Bill by Slosberg

Use of Wireless Communications Devices while Driving: Provides for primary enforcement of Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law for drivers age 18 or younger; requires deposit of fines into Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund.

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

**HB 6005 - Licenses to Carry Concealed Weapons or Firearms**

General Bill by Plankon

Licenses to Carry Concealed Weapons or Firearms: Removes provision prohibiting concealed carry licensees from openly carrying handgun or carrying concealed weapon or firearm into college or university facility.

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

**HB 6001 - Concealed Weapons and Firearms**

General Bill by Raburn

Concealed Weapons and Firearms: Revises areas of an airport where person is prohibited from openly carrying handgun or from carrying concealed weapon or firearm.

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

**HB 167 - Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines**

General Bill by Smith

Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines: Prohibit sale or transfers of assault weapons or large capacity ammunition magazine; provides exceptions; prohibits possession of assault weapon or large-capacity magazine; provides exceptions; requires certificates of possession for assault weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines lawfully possessed before specified date; limits transfers of weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines represented by such certificates; provides conditions for continued possession of such weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines; requires certificates of transfer for transfers of assault weapons or large capacity magazines; provides for relinquishment of assault weapons or large capacity magazines; provides requirements for transportation of assault weapons; specifies circumstances in which manufacture or transportation of assault weapons or large capacity magazines is not prohibited; provides enhanced criminal penalties for certain offenses when committed with assault weapon or large capacity magazine.

Effective Date: October 1, 2017

# 2017 Florida Senate Bills of Interest

## **SB 128 - Self-Defense Immunity**

General Bill by Bradley

Self-defense Immunity: Requiring that the burden of proof in a criminal prosecution be on the party seeking to overcome the immunity claim under certain circumstances, etc.

Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

## **SB 140 - Openly Carrying a Handgun**

General Bill by Steube

Openly Carrying a Handgun: Authorizing a compliant licensee to openly carry a handgun, etc.

Effective Date: 07/01/2017

## **SB 142 - Safe Storage of Loaded Firearms**

General Bill by Farmer

Safe Storage of Loaded Firearms: Revising the locations and circumstances in which a loaded firearm is required to be kept or secured with a trigger lock; deleting provisions relating to conditions for committing the crime of failing to safely store, leave, or secure a loaded firearm in a specified manner, etc.

Effective Date: 10/01/2017

## **SB 144 - Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving**

General Bill by Garcia

Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving: Providing for primary enforcement of the Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law for drivers age 18 or younger; requiring deposit of fines into the Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund, etc.

Effective Date: 07/01/2017

## **SB 170 - Prohibited Places for Weapons and Firearms**

General Bill by Braynon

Prohibited Places for Weapons and Firearms: Revising the locations where a licensee is prohibited from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm, etc.

Effective Date: 07/01/2017

## **SB 178 - Traffic Infraction Detectors**

General Bill by Artiles

Traffic Infraction Detectors: Repealing provisions relating to the definitions of "local hearing officer" and "traffic infraction detector" and to the installation and use of traffic infraction detectors to enforce specified provisions when a driver fails to stop at a traffic signal, provisions that authorize the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, a county, or a municipality to use such detectors, and the distribution of penalties collected for specified violations, etc.

Effective date: 07/01/2020

## **SB 180 - Traffic Infraction Detectors General Bill by Rodriguez**

Traffic Infraction Detectors: Decreasing the penalty to be assessed and collected by the department, county, or municipality if a traffic infraction detector is used to enforce specified violations when a driver failed to stop at a traffic signal; prohibiting the suspension of a person's driver license and privilege to drive or the withholding of the license plate or revalidation sticker for failure to pay certain penalties under certain circumstances, etc.

Effective date: 10/01/17

## **SB 254 - Gun Safety**

General Bill by Stewart (CO-SPONSORS) Farmer  
Gun Safety: Prohibiting the sale or transfer of an assault weapon or large capacity ammunition magazine; prohibiting possession of an assault weapon or large-capacity magazine; requiring certificates of possession for assault weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines lawfully possessed before a specified date; providing enhanced criminal penalties for certain offenses when committed with an assault weapon or large capacity magazine, etc.

Effective Date: 10/01/2017

**For more information on any of these proposed bills, contact Darrin at: [flabatestatevp@gmail.com](mailto:flabatestatevp@gmail.com)**

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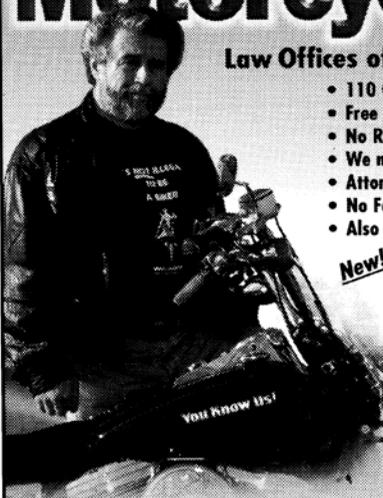
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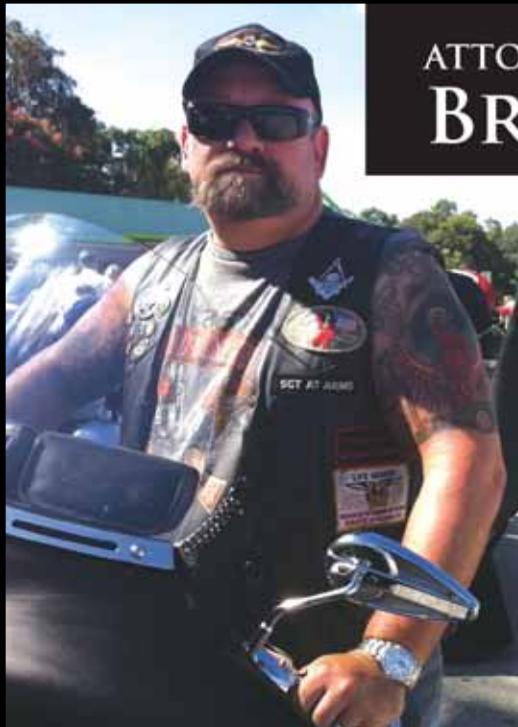
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# HB 6009 - The “Helmet Bill”

Below are a few tips from Darrin “Scribe” Brooks that you can use when contacting your legislators about HB 6009

- Phone calls to either the legislators District office or Tally office are better than sending an email.
- You have more clout with your own legislator than with one from another district. Use that clout by telling the legislators office that you are one of their constituents. To find out who your State legislators are visit this web page and enter your address.
- **<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/myrepresentative.aspx>**
- The absolute most important thing is to speak to them in a calm friendly manner. Do not call angry or talk down to the person. The old saying is true “You attract more bees with honey than you do with vinegar.” We cannot afford to turn any legislators against us.
- When you call the legislators’ office, you will almost always get the secretary or aide. Be prepared to tell your name, address and phone number. Tell them that you are a member of ABATE of Florida, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter. If you are a regular voter then tell them that. Don’t tell them you vote if you rarely ever vote.
- If you do vote regularly, the past few general and primary elections you are a Super Voter. This carries more clout because they now know that you actually do get out and vote.
- Tell the person at the office that you are opposed to HB 6009 and you would like the legislator help fight against this bill. Something as simple as:

*“Hello, my name is Darrin Brooks, 1234 Main Street in Naples, Florida. I am a member of ABATE of Florida, Gator Alley Chapter in Collier County. I am call to ask for Rep. Donalds help in opposing HB 6009. I live in Rep. Donalds district and I vote in every single election. Please let Rep. Donalds know that I am opposed to HB 6009 and I would like his help opposing this bill. Thank you.”*

Occasionally they might ask you why you are opposed to the bill. If the office is busy that day they probably will not ask you why you are opposed. Here are a few short easy to give reasons why you oppose HB 6009:

- There has not been any definitive proof that simply wearing a helmet will guarantee saving a life. In 2015, 296 motorcyclists were killed in Florida while wearing a helmet. This is compared to 237 killed without a helmet.
- There is no definitive proof that all motorcyclists killed without a helmet died from head injuries.
- There is no definitive proof that the cost of medical treatment to an injured motorcyclist is actually passed on to “society” to pay. People for the mandatory helmet law love to say that “X amount of dollars for motorcyclists medical bills are passed on to the citizens of Florida”. This is simply illogical and is presumptive that ALL motorcyclist have no insurance at all.
- If the only reason for this bill is to save lives, then support a statewide Motorcycle Awareness Program. Education not legislation can save more lives.
- \$2.50 of all motorcycle registration fees goes into a motorcycle awareness education fund. Give ABATE of Florida at least 25% of that yearly money and we can mount a Statewide Motorcycle Awareness program that is effective, efficient and saves the State of Florida lives and money.
- When done, Thank the person for listening and let them know that if they have any further questions we will get back with them. Then contact Doc and myself so that we can answer their questions.

Contact Info for Doc and Scribe can be found at [http://www.abateflorida.com/board\\_of\\_directors](http://www.abateflorida.com/board_of_directors)

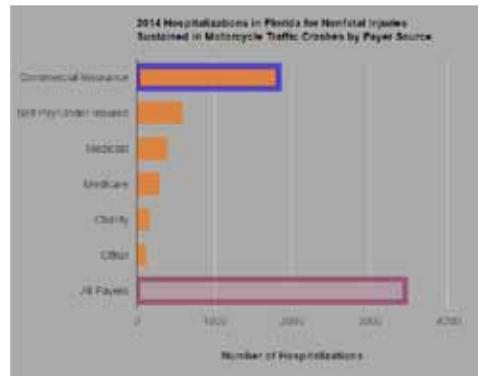
# Additional Talking Points for HB 6009

## From our State Legislative Rep - Darrin "Scribe" Brooks

1. Helmets are not the magic hat people say they are.
  - In 2015 296 died wearing a DOT or other Helmet....237 died without helmets
  - 2014 – 223 died with helmets .... 198 died with no helmets
  - 2013 – 233 died with helmets .... 204 died without helmets
  - 2012 – 210 died with helmets .... 209 died without helmets
  - 2011 – 188 died with helmets .... 218 died without helmets
  - 2010 – 186 died with helmets .... 122 died without helmets
  - 2009 – 203 died with helmets .... 134 died without helmets
  - 2008 – 279 died with helmets .... 171 died without helmets
  - 2007 – 305 died with helmets .... 208 died without helmets
  - 2006 – 322 died with helmets .... 199 died without helmets
  - 2005 – 252 died with helmets .... 189 died without helmets
  - 2004 – 200 died with helmets .... 186 died without helmets

All of these yearly reports can be found at the FHSMV (Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles) website under the "RESOURCES" tab click on "Crash and Citation Reports & Statistics"  
Here is a direct link. <https://www.flhsmv.gov/resources/crash-citation-reports/>

2. They still cannot prove that every rider that died without a helmet, died due to a head injury. Having your body ran over by a car that pulls out in front of you can kill the same with or without a helmet.
3. When they talk about the cost of medical treatment to injured riders, they are trying to deceive people into thinking that riders do not have insurance and all this cost is passed on to the public. However a report titled Motorcycle Crash Trends in Florida presented in 2010 by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at USF, shows that 91% of the 2009 Hospitalizations in Florida for Nonfatal Injuries Sustained in Motorcycle Traffic Crashes had a payer source. That report has since been taken off of their website. They did post this from 2014 that still makes our point.
4. They do not want to count Medicare, Medicaid, Charity and Other as a payer source. They want to mislead you by making you think that if the rider does not have "Commercial Insurance" they have no payer source. Besides, since Obama Care, doesn't everyone have to be covered or pay a big fine? So when you look at this graph notice that how many riders actually do have a payer source.



5. When you contact your legislator calmly point out the hard facts that:
  - More riders die each year wearing a helmet.
  - There is no proof that all the deaths of riders without a helmet wear due to head injury.
  - Over 90% of hospitalizations of riders did have a viable payer source.
  - A proper Motorcycle Safety Awareness Program can increase driver awareness of motorcycles and is the key program to decrease motorcyclists death.



# FEBRUARY 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 US Military Vets MC Annual (Homestead)
5	6 States MC Pompano Dinner	7	8	9	10	11 ABATE State Meeting (Ocala)
12 AOA Ft. Lauderdale Annual	13 States MC Pompano Dinner	14 	15	16	17	18 Scurvy Few MC Party
19	20 States MC Pompano Dinner	21	22	23	24	25 Wheels of Man MC Annual
<b>CHAPTER MEETING</b>						
26	27 States MC Pompano Dinner	28				

Always **Check the Hotline** for more additional information: 954-310-4636...  
 Sometimes "Events" get missed or don't get listed in time for the Calendar.



# MARCH 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 <b>Hernandez M/C Annual</b>	6 States MC Pompano Dinner	7	8	9	10 <b>76<sup>th</sup> Daytona Bike Week Fri. March 10 - Sun. March 19</b>	11
12	13 States MC Pompano Dinner	14	15	16	17  <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	18
19 <b>Keltics M/C Annual</b>	20 States MC Pompano Dinner	21	22	23	24	25 <b>US Military Vets M/C (Chapter 1) Party</b>
	26 <b>CHAPTER MEETING</b>	27 States MC Pompano Dinner	28	29	30	31

Always **Check the Hotline** for more additional information: **954-310-4636...**  
 Sometimes "Events" get missed or don't get listed in time for the Calendar.

# 2017 CALENDAR

MANDATORY CLUB EVENTS ARE LISTED IN BOLD



FOR CHANGES EMAIL:  
INDIAN (WOM MC)  
Indianwommc@yahoo.com  
SFPC CHARIMAN

SOUTH FLORIDA PRESIDENTS COUNCIL  
of Motorcycle Clubs and Organizations

CALENDAR EVENT

## FEBRUARY

- 4: US MILITARY VETS MC - ANNUAL (Homestead)**
- 12: AOA FT. LAUDERDALE - ANNUAL**
- 14: Valentines Day
- 18: SCURVY FEW MC - PARTY
- 25: WHEELS OF MAN MC - ANNUAL**

## MARCH

- 5: HERMANDAD MC - ANNUAL**
- 10-19: DAYTONA BIKE WEEK
- 17: St. Patrick's Day
- 19: KELTICS MC - ANNUAL**
- 25: US MILITARY VETS MC CH.1 - PARTY

## APRIL

- 2: STATES MC - ANNUAL**
- 8: MYSTIC SEVEN MC - PARTY
- 15: OUTCAST MC - ANNUAL**
- 16: EASTER
- 16: CMA EASTER SERVICE
- 23: ALTERNATIVE MC - ANNUAL**
- 28: LEESBURG BIKEFEST

## MAY

- 7: SOUTHERN MC - ANNUAL**
- 13: SCURVY FEW MC - ANNUAL**
- 14: Mothers day
- 20: WINGS OF GOLD MC MIAMI - ANNUAL**
- 27: S.E. ABATE - MEMORIAL DAY EVENT
- 28: LOS COQUIS MC - ANNUAL**
- 30: Memorial Day

## JUNE

- 4: NEW ATTITUDES MC - PARTY
- 10: AOA SOUTH FLORIDA MEMORIAL GBNF 1%ers
- 11: WINGS OF GOLD MC FT. LAUD. - ANNUAL**
- 18: Fathers Day
- 24: LEATHERNECKS MC - PARTY

## JULY

- 1: US MILITARY VETS MC S. BROWARD - ANNUAL**
- 4: Independence Day
- 16: SOLDIERS FOR JESUS MC BROWARD - ANNUAL**
- 29: WHEELS OF MAN MC - CHILI COOK-OFF



## MONTHLY EVENTS

### FRIDAY

- Outlaws MC WPB Open House at 7PM
- USMV MC Ch 2 Open house at 8PM (Dania Beach)
- Der Krieger MC Open House at 8PM
- Mystic 7 MC Open House... Ladies drink FREE!
- Keltics MC Open House
- Los Coquis MC Open House at 8:30PM til ??
- 1st Fri - Soldiers for Jesus Open House 7-10PM
- 1st Fri - Enforcers MC First Friday of Month Party
- 1st & 3rd Fri - Kingdom of Brothers Open House
- 2nd & 4th Fri - Los Coquis MC Open house
- 3rd Fri - Wings of Gold MC Open House Davie
- 4th Fri - American Legion Post 36 Bike Night

### SATURDAY

- 1st & 3rd Sat - AOA MC Dania Open House
- 2nd Sat - USMV MC Ft. Laud. Open House
- 2nd & 4th Sat - Mystic 7 Open House
- 2nd & 4th Sat - Kingdom of Brothers Open House

### SUNDAY

- Free pool at Sharkey's Lounge Margate
- Wind Rider Church Services at Mickeys

### WEEK DAYS

- Mon - States MC Pompano Dinner Nite 6:30pm start
- Mon - Ladies nite at Sharkey's 9-2, 241 beverages
- Tues - Lone Legion Brotherhood Open House
- Last Tues - USMV MC Palm Bch Open House
- Wed - Scurvy Few MC Open House 954-325-6838
- Wed - Blues Nite at Mickey's
- Thurs - Leathernecks MC Open House 8-mid
- Thurs - Hermandad MC Open House, 8-2am
- 3rd Thurs - Peterson's Harley South Bike nite 6-10PM

# ROAD CAPTAIN REPORT



Hi Everyone,

First thing I would like to say, my deepest sympathy to Mystic Seven and the family of Preacher for their loss.

States MC had their Blessing of the Bikes and as always it was a great turn out. A few of us rode there together; wish there would have been more.

I would like to thank those that helped out at our safety booth at the Wings of Gold Appreciation Day at Alligator Alley HD.

Candy's Cycle Appreciation and Moldy's 42nd anniversary party was a great success. Thanks Gina and AOA for a great time.

Thank you to all that rode to Papa Harley's memorial at Café 27 and then over to Mystic Seven's memorial at AOA's Dania Beach club house.

That's all for now, except for a couple of motorcycle facts I found.

*The very first Harley Davidson motorcycle used a tomato can for a carburetor, wow that's American ingenuity.*

Ok, one more

*Motorcycle front tires disperse water at 3X the rate of the rear tire.*

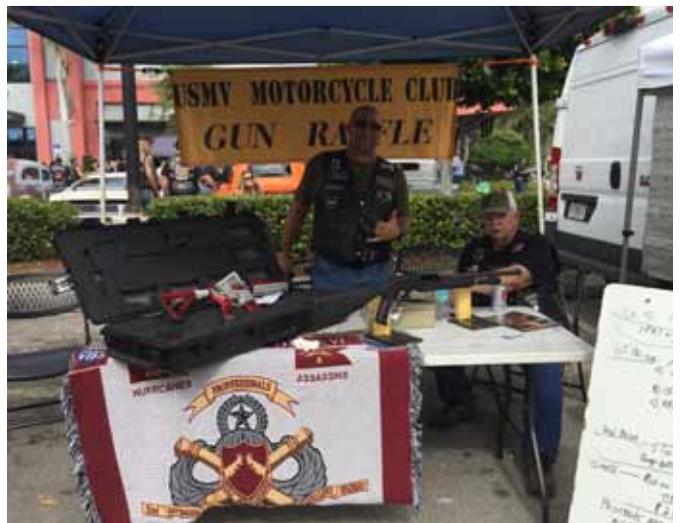
I hope these facts are correct, I found them on the internet, Bonjour!

Thank you to all that support ABATE, until next time,

Jon "Wavy" Viger

P.S. Thanks to all of you that choose to ride in a group with us.

**To be included in texts about upcoming events Contact Wavy at 954-261-9242**



**HOTLINE**  
**GET THE LATEST INFO**  
**954-310-4636**

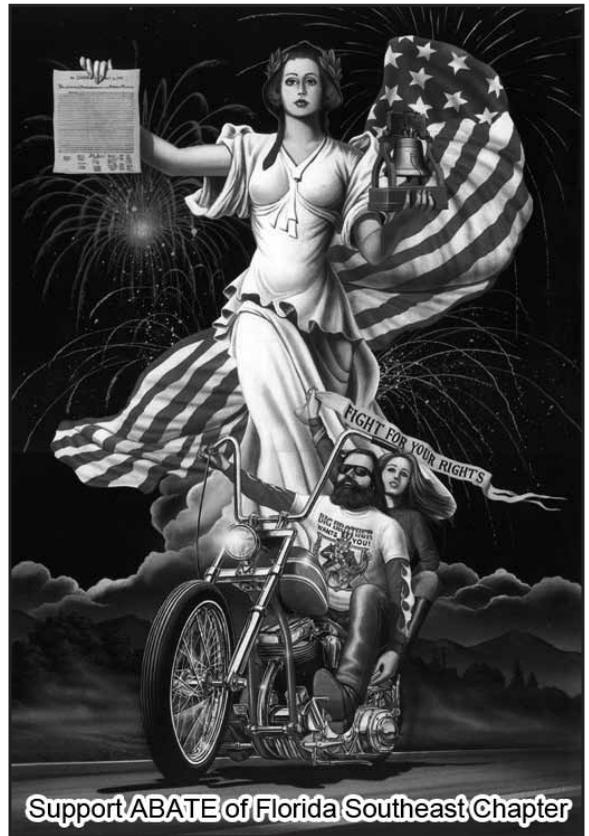
**Deadline: Every Monday**  
**by 7pm...Email Magneto**  
**pres@abatese.us**

**Visit & Support**  
**American Legion Post 321**  
**9081 SW 51st Street**  
**Cooper City, Florida**  
**954-430-0965**

**American Legion**  
**Riders Cooper City**  
**Memorial Chapter 321**

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alrfl321@hotmail.com  
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 G K A V M R O U J N R N T P U L A E V K I Q I L P F R D T Y  
 S E L P U O C X R F D E K U L P L C A P C X C K A I H R E A  
 S D R A C P O Y A T F L W C S S O N L C U U F E B R U A R Y  
 T L R O B G A R E T E M E O X V C A E T R Z R E B E D R O E  
 S E C R E T A D M I R E R L L W O M N P T E V T L M O J B T  
 D N G O A S Y T U R O Z N G I F H O T W F O G O S W V E I B  
 I H Q Q H N W M R A K W V B S G C R I J L A V J N N W F Y U  
 N E N V E X N P Z N U L H T P O H E N A U E I A L D O R A M  
 B Y M H A E U B F L S F F E D T R T E S S Y Q Q P R R O A M  
 G K V E Y C M J H Q S I H G A Y B C E Q S D E Q H D F P M F  
 E C C D I N N E R W G L N U E R Y C E J C W R I Z D N E G R  
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 Y G V S V T B D I D N P L I U M U M E S S O R I F K T Z V A  
 U M Q C N T V S G B R Y I R N Q V R S C J N F C D V Y T C F

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**Be Mine**

**Candlelight**

**Cards**

**Chocolate**

**Couples**

**Crush**

**Cupid**

**Dinner**

**February**

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**Fourteen**

**Friendship**

**Gifts**

**Hearts**

**Hugs**

**Kisses**

**Love**

**Lovebirds**

**Memories**

**Moonstruck**

**Red**

**Romance**

**Roses**

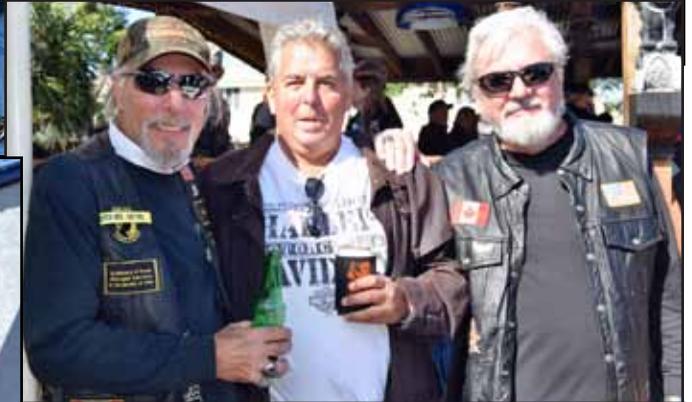
**Secret Admirer**

**St. Valentine**

**Sweethearts**

**True Love**

*Photos Courtesy of Rogue Photography*





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American Bikers Aiming Toward Education**

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Mail your information and check to:

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**Southeast Chapter**

**PO Box 292693**

**Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33329**

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You will be contacted ASAP

Thanks for your support

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**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIZE AND DURATION OF AD** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBERS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

# February Birthdays

Todd "Hoss"  
 Allen "Ace" Ryant  
 Martin "Tank"  
 Barbara J Ferry  
 Jose "Joser" Juarbe  
 Hans Lankutis  
 Tom Knox



Jeff Medham  
 Mike "Digger" Porter  
 Jim Penna  
 Diana Berg  
 David "Gimpy" Gregory  
 Mike Saldarini  
 Cory Torrence

Don't miss the ABATE SE Chapter Birthday Party  
 Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> at A.L. Post 222 (After the meeting)

## STATES



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 Call JR (954) 729-3192



South Florida



# Outlaws

Rain or Shine

Annual

Valentines Party  
 At the Tiki Hut  
 Club House - Lakeview Dr.

Noon til ??? Sunday February 12th, 2017

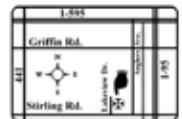
Door Prizes  
 50/50  
 Food

Music by  
 Todd

No Guns, No Drugs  
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# You can't take it with you

We all want the things we think are important to us: a bigger house, maybe a nicer car, or maybe a better motorcycle, a better job, or more money.

I could go on forever, everybody wants things.

Some people have more than others. Why? I can't answer that, but I do know that what we have is given to us by God to enjoy, but not to worship. We see these things as some kind of idols, but remember you'll never see a U-Haul trailer behind a hearse. You can't take it with you!!!!

We also see that some people live longer than others, some people are sicker than others. Why? Again, I don't know the answer to that - only God knows. That's why He's God and I'm not.

Life does seem unfair sometimes.

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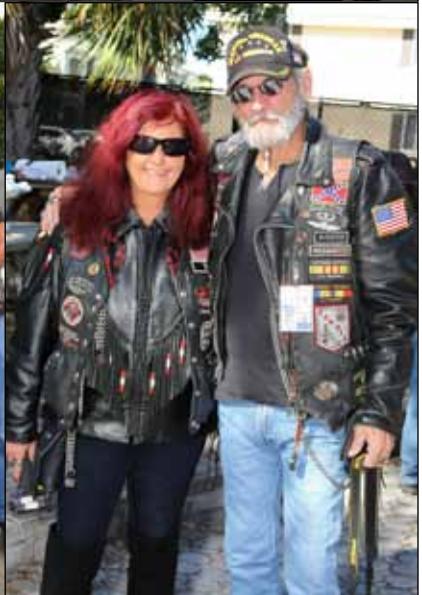
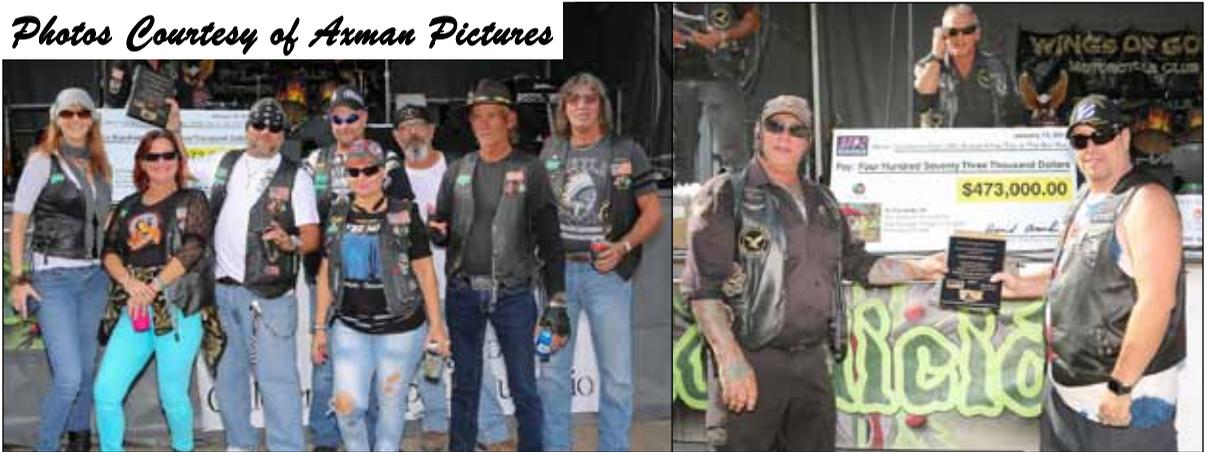
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# The cost of life saving education

By Darrin “Scribe” Brooks

Did you know that each year when you register your motorcycle, you pay a mandatory fee that goes into a “Trust Fund” to be used specifically for motorcycle safety awareness programs? That is the absolute truth. The State of Florida cares so much about us that they are setting aside some of OUR OWN money to help keep us safe. Well.... Kinda, they have included a loophole in their own law that allows for whatever money they do not spend on motorcycle safety and awareness, can actually go back into the FDOT’s (Florida Department of Transportation) general budget.

The money brought in from this mandatory fee is somewhere between \$1.5 and \$2.7 million depending on the number of motorcycle registrations. The last numbers that I could find for 2012 show 1.1 million motorcycle endorsements and 619,152 motorcycle registrations. The budgeted money comes from the \$2.50 motorcycle registration fee that ONLY motorcycle owners pay. That fee goes into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund (Florida Statute 320.08) to be implemented for motorcycle safety awareness programs (Florida Statute 322.025). Below is an excerpt for the law

*The proceeds of such additional fee shall be deposited in the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund to fund a motorcycle driver improvement program implemented pursuant to s. 322.025, the Florida Motorcycle Safety Education Program established in s. 322.0255, or the general operations of the department.*

The past several years, ABATE of Florida, Inc. has requested that a small portion of the money be budgeted for ABATE to use to teach motorcycle safety awareness all across the state. ABATE of Florida, Inc. is a grassroots volunteer organization and that 100% of the money goes towards promoting motorcycle safety awareness all across the State of Florida. We have an outside auditor verify that all the money goes towards educating the public about motorcycle awareness.

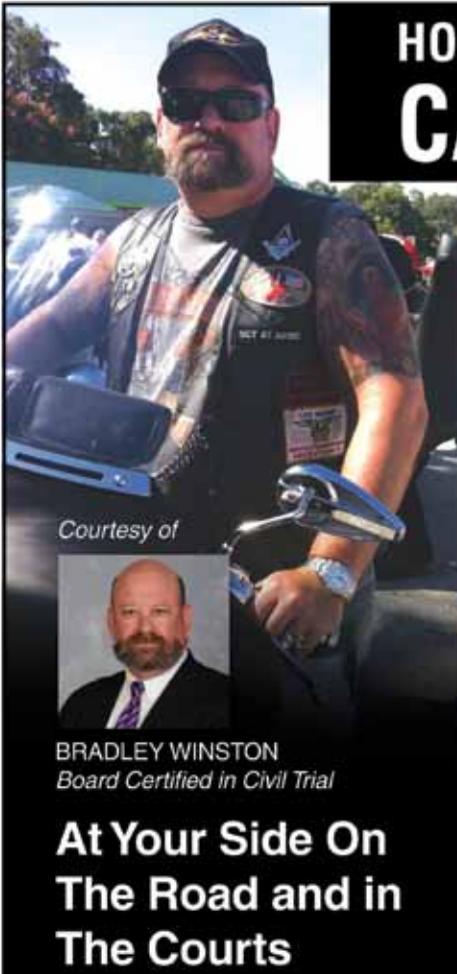
The money is used to raise the awareness of motorcycles to the driving public all across Florida. Most likely you have seen the yellow and black “Check Twice For Motorcycles” signs on the back of cars and trucks. We also go into the high schools and speak to the students who are just getting their drivers license to be aware of motorcycles out on the road however, the most effective method is to set up booths at community events and speak one on one to the people. Since ABATE of Florida, Inc. is a volunteer organization every cent goes directly to educating the public about motorcycle awareness.

When the FDOT sets up a booth at an event, they have to pay the person to be there, pay for their travel, hotel, meals, etc. All those expenses come out of the money set aside for motorcycle safety education. ABATE knows that we can spend the money more effectively and get a much bigger bang for the buck. The budgeted money comes from Florida motorcyclists, to be used by Florida Motorcyclists, to save the lives of all motorcyclists in Florida. Who is better at effectively teaching Motorcycle Safety Awareness, a motorcyclist that actually rides or a person who sits behind a desk and has never ridden a motorcycle?

Last year the legislature voted to budget \$150,000 to ABATE of Florida, Inc. The bad news is that two of the last three years Gov. Rick Scott has line item vetoed the budgeted amount. The third time it was removed after it was voted on and approved by both the House and the Senate. Never is a reason given why the motorcyclists’ money is taken away and not allowed to be used effectively to save lives. The good news is that bikers are persistent and we will continue to ask for what turns out to be just 10 to 15% of the total money raised by the fee. ABATE of Florida, Inc. believes that even one death is too many! We have all buried too many brothers and sisters to not continue to fight for motorcycle safety awareness.

So what is the cost of life saving education? Florida says it is \$2.50 of your money, however, they don’t want to part with any of it.

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## **NCOM BIKER NEWSBYTES**

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish,  
National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM)

## **RPM ACT REINTRODUCED IN NEW CONGRESS**

As the 115th Congress went into session, among the first bills reintroduced was the RPM Act (Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports Act of 2017), House Resolution 350 sponsored by U.S. Representative Patrick McHenry (R-NC). The bipartisan bill, which was submitted for reintroduction on the first day of the new Congress, protects Americans' right to modify street cars and motorcycles into dedicated race vehicles and industry's right to sell the parts that enable racers to compete.

The RPM Act ensures that transforming motor vehicles into race vehicles used exclusively in competition does not violate the Clean Air Act. For nearly 50 years, the practice was unquestioned until the EPA published proposed regulations in 2015 that deemed such conversions illegal and subject to severe penalties. While the EPA withdrew the problematic language from the final rule making last year, the agency still maintains the practice is unlawful.

Motorsports competition involves tens of thousands of participants and vehicle owners each year, according to SEMA (Specialty Equipment Market Association) and retail sales of racing products make up a \$1.4 billion market annually. There are an estimated 1,300 racetracks operating across the U.S., including oval, road, track and off-road racetracks, the majority of which feature converted race vehicles that the EPA now considers to be illegal.

The RPM Act, H.R. 350 would protect the sport of racing by blocking the EPA from over-regulating the industry and ensuring that it remains legal to convert street legal motor vehicles for racing purposes.

## **BRITISH MOTORSPORTS THREATENED BY EU RULING**

The British government has just issued a document for public consultation that suggests temporarily implementing a European Court decision known as the "Vnuk judgement," which would make it compulsory for anyone engaging in any and all forms of motor sport to have third party insurance. It would be applicable to all vehicles on any kind of land and even implementing it temporarily would mean an end to motorsports in the UK, because insurance companies will not insure against third party motorsport risks -- the number of vehicle claims alone would be unsustainable for them, meaning that if the Vnuk judgement came into force, motorsport activity in the UK would cease.

A joint statement issued by the Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA), Auto Cycle Union (ACU) and the Amateur Motorcycle Association (AMCA) is calling on the government to exempt motor and motorcycle sport from any changes to insurance law that would arise from the ECJ ruling. "At a stroke, this would wipe out a successful industry and all the jobs that go with it, as well as eliminating a popular leisure pursuit for 1.9 million people, along with the boost that this gives to both local and national economies," said Steve Kenward, CEO of the MCIA, speaking on behalf of all three parties. "If the government implements the Vnuk judgment un-amended, British motorcycle sport would end in the UK."

England is home to world leading motorcycle companies, motorsport teams and racing talent, and the industry contributes significantly to the British economy by employing over 50,000 people and generating a total of £11 billion of sales each year (\$13.5 billion USD).

The Vnuk ruling stems from a case involving a Slovenian farm worker, Damijan Vnuk, who was hurt falling from a ladder, which was hit by a reversing tractor.

## **VICTORY MOTORCYCLES WINDS DOWN PRODUCTION**

Victory Motorcycles is to be wound down, the firm's parent company Polaris has just announced. The move is to allow the firm to "narrow" its focus onto more profitable areas of the business, including Indian Motorcycle.

A statement just released by Polaris says it will "immediately begin winding down its Victory Motorcycles brand and related operations." Dealers will be assisted in "liquidating existing inventories" and parts will continue

to be supplied for 10 years. Servicing and warranty coverage will also continue.

"This was an incredibly difficult decision for me, my team and the Polaris Board of Directors," said Polaris Industries Chairman and CEO Scott Wine. "Over the past 18 years, we have invested not only resources, but our hearts and souls, into forging the Victory Motorcycles brand... The experience, knowledge, infrastructure and capability we've built in those 18 years gave us the confidence to acquire and develop the Indian Motorcycle brand, so I would like to express my gratitude to everyone associated with Victory Motorcycles and celebrate your many contributions."

According to the written statement, Victory has "struggled to establish the market share needed to succeed and be profitable."

It says: "The competitive pressures of a challenging motorcycle market have increased the headwinds for the brand. Given the significant additional investments required for Victory to launch new global platforms that meet changing consumer preferences, and considering the strong performance and growth potential of Indian Motorcycle, the decision to more narrowly focus Polaris' energy and investments became quite clear."

Wine added, "This decision will improve the profitability of Polaris and our global motorcycle business, and will materially improve our competitive stance in the industry."

"Our focus is on profitable growth, and in an environment of finite resources, this move allows us to optimize and align our resources behind both our premium, high-performing Indian Motorcycle brand and our innovative Slingshot brand, enhancing our focus on accelerating the success of those brands. Ultimately this decision will propel the industry-leading product innovation that is core to our strategy while fostering long-term growth and increased shareholder value."

**100% TARIFF PROPOSED ON EUROPEAN MOTORCYCLES** Motorcycles are once again caught in the crossfire of an international trade policy standoff between the Office of United States Trade Representative and European Union, stemming from ongoing disagreements over meat products. During the late 1990's, the World Trade Organization requested the E.U. lift its standing ban on U.S. beef; the E.U. declined, citing the meat's failure to meet European health and hormone standards. In 2009, the U.S. negotiated a pact allowing some beef market access; but according

to the White House, the agreement "has not worked as intended."

As a result, the U.S.T.R. is now considering a new petition from the U.S. beef lobby, invoked last December under a revised clause in the 1974 Trade Act that would create a "retaliation list" of foreign products which are subject to heavy import tariffs, to balance the export losses. Unsurprisingly, the U.S. beef lobby's list consists largely of meat and animal parts, but it also includes a scattershot of other items, like chewing gum, electric hair clippers, and motorcycles.

Two vehicular tariffs are proposed on the new retaliation list. One is for European bikes between 51cc and 250cc; the other, European bikes between 251cc to 500cc. Both would be subject to an import tax of 100% (or more). This would directly impact fifteen European manufacturers, including major brands like Aprilia, BMW, Ducati, Husqvarna, KTM, Piaggio and Vespa.

In doubling prices of the most popular European motorcycles, these tariffs could potentially cripple the U.S. dealer network, putting thousands of salespeople and techs out of work.

It's not the first time the motorcycle industry has been in this position. In 1999, after the E.U. declined the W.T.O. directive, European motorcycles were included in -- and later dropped from -- a similar retaliation list. The same thing happened again in 2008, leading into negotiations for the current deal.

The beef lobby's new petition is currently in the review phase, and the U.S.T.R. has opened the proposal to a public comment period ending January 30.

**"DEAD RED" LAW PASSES IN OHIO FOR ALL VEHICLES** During a three-week lame-duck legislative session that ended in mid-December, state lawmakers in Ohio passed more than fifty new laws, including House Bill 154: Under certain conditions, drivers (and riders) can now proceed through a red light if you think your vehicle is not tripping the signal to change, but only if the intersection is clear. If a malfunctioning traffic signal doesn't detect your car, truck or motorcycle; the law states that your vehicle must come to a complete stop first, and after a reasonable amount of time you can proceed through the intersection as long as the coast is clear and you must yield to oncoming traffic with the right of way.

"If a driver does go through a red light, and there is

an accident, they have the burden to prove it was malfunctioning,” explains local A.I.M. attorney (Aid to Injured Motorcyclists) Ralph C. Buss. “If a motorist or motorcyclist, or bicyclist, does come across a light that isn’t working, it is recommended that they should call police.”

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) invites Bike and Motorcycle riders to contact an ODOT advocate to report problems with traffic signals and roadway conditions via Email to [bike.report@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:bike.report@dot.state.oh.us) or call (614) 387-0722.

### **ARIZONA “PAY FOR PLAY” HELMET LAW PROPOSAL**

A bill has been introduced to require motorcycle riders in Arizona to wear a helmet, except that “AN OPERATOR OR PASSENGER OF A MOTORCYCLE, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE OR MOTOR DRIVEN CYCLE WHO IS AT LEAST EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE IS EXEMPT FROM THE HELMET REQUIREMENT PRESCRIBED BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION IF THE OWNER PAYS A FEE (amount to be determined) WHEN REGISTERING THE VEHICLE.”

According to HB 2046, introduced by Representative Dr. Randall Friese (D-Tucson), “THE FEE ALLOWS A PERSON TO OPERATE THE MOTORCYCLE, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE OR MOTOR DRIVEN CYCLE WITHOUT WEARING A HELMET AND ALLOWS A PASSENGER TO RIDE ON THE CYCLE WITHOUT WEARING A HELMET.”

“Amending this statute would require all 200,000 motorcycle riders in Arizona to wear a helmet or be subjected to a fine of Five Hundred dollars which three hundred would be going towards Rep. Friese and his friends and their spinal cord trauma practices,” explains Michael Infanzon, lobbyist for ABATE of Arizona. “We have seen Rep. Friese try this game year after year and Arizona motorcyclists have succeeded in stopping this infringement on our right to choose to wear a helmet or not.”

This proposed legislation has been referred to two different committees, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Rules Committee, and ABATE of Arizona has issued an IMMEDIATE CALL TO ACTION for riders to contact Rep. Friese and members of the House committees to kill the bill. “This is nothing more than a tax on motorcyclists and an infringement on our rights,” notes Infanzon.

### **ALLSTATE O.N.E. PROGRAM TEAMS UP LOCALLY TO HELP RIDERS**

It’s a case of Bikers Helping Bikers, as longtime rider Jason Large of Jackson, Ohio wanted to help protect riders on the major Ohio state route he lives on. Allstate Insurance was inspired by Jason’s desire to help keep his fellow riders safe and coincidentally, have their own campaign with just this goal in mind.

Allstate’s Once is Never Enough (O.N.E.) program is an awareness campaign created to help reduce the number of motorcycle crashes involving other vehicles at intersections by encouraging motorists to “look twice, because once is never enough”.

Through the O.N.E. program, a yellow diamond-shaped “Watch for Motorcycles” warning sign was created in 2009 following two years of development, which has resulted in 179 signs installed at dangerous intersections in 41 different U.S. cities across 21 states.

### **WEIRD NEWS: WOMEN ARRESTED FOR RIDING A MOTORCYCLE**

Iranian police arrested two women for riding a motorcycle in a western city -- an incident that went viral when images appeared online and sparked a social-media backlash against the country’s political and religious authorities.

State news agency IRNA said the two women were detained in Dezful, whose law enforcement chief, Ali Elhami, accused them of committing an “ugly” act that breaks the “religious norms” of the conservative Islamic-led nation.

IRNA quoted Elhami as saying he ordered the women’s arrest after online images of the two women riding the motorcycle and being surrounded by male onlookers at a local park prompted complaints about the women’s dress, appearance and interaction with the men. The two women will be judged for breaking “revolutionary norms and values.”

Women in Iran are barred from obtaining licenses to drive motorcycles in public.

**QUOTABLE QUOTE:** “I can’t understand why people are frightened of new ideas. I’m frightened of the old ones.” ~ John Cage (1912-1992), American composer, philosopher & artist



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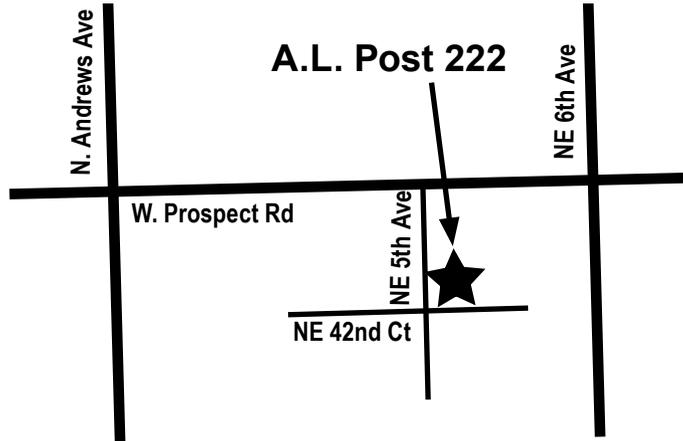
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To provide a lobbyist to represent ABATE of Florida, Inc. on the state and national level.

To promote voter registration and motivate members to write their legislators.

To promote safe riding habits without infringing on individual rights.

To educate the public about motorcycle awareness.

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