

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC.

Saturday, June 10, 2023

State Delegate Meeting in Pasco County

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Griz- Thanks to Boneyard Chapter for hosting the meeting and thanks to Rich Newsome for providing the food today.

- 1). We have the gun tickets, and it was verified with John from Forest about delivery of the gun in accordance with the current gun laws. There will only be 1500 tickets printed.
- 2). ANY email sent to the chapters must be approved by Griz and the Board before it is sent to the chapters.
- 3). There cannot be any politics or endorsements on any ABATE social media. We are a NON-Partisan Organization.
- 4). Please review the SOP on all flyers. They must be approved by the State Office before being published. Events can get insurance up to 90 days before the event. A situation was mentioned about not getting a flyer approved in a timely manner. Given the time constraints and the jobs of those involved, it was suggested that flyers be submitted as soon as possible. And if no response is heard, please call.
- 5). A presentation was shown describing the procedure with choosing the organizations that will be part of the "Safety Money Council" from SB 838. Bottom line is that ABATE of Florida must provide information on how we see the "council" or committee will work with the other MRO's. Concern was brought up about other organizations and how it will affect the safety money. "We just need to make sure we are doing the right thing. Abate will have to be the leader of this council" Griz

DISCUSSION: SW – how long do these appointments last? 5 yrs. Is it possible that ABATE will not be chosen? Yes. Palm Beach – Could the money be used for Drivers Ed? Or Motorcyclist Safety Drivers class. To be determined. It has been suggested that there is to be a public workshop in September for all ABATE members, to discuss how we should use our funded money. There is no date or location yet. A question was asked to Lana concerning "is there a plan". Bottom line is we can review what is documented in the State Office, but we must decide as an organization the best use of this money. Forest – described ABATES role as the only MRO in Florida and questioned why we have to be in collaboration with other organizations that "we might not want to be associated with,". It was discussed that would not be an issue. Each group will be responsible for their own actions. The point of this board is to make sure the money is spent properly. Abate determines what we want to spend the money on. Russ – first we must be selected. We can't control what the other groups do but what we have to do is submit the RFP. The director of DHSMV will be the one selecting the groups to collaborate prior to July 1, 2023. Frenchie reminded us that we have been shut down for the last several years with Safety Money. We have worked with everyone. Our problem right now is how do we use the money properly. Johnny from SE talked about getting those groups to join ABATE. Thank you to Melanie for the Presentation. There was a discussion about the Motorcycle Riding Safety Program. Lana stated we must work with all of the other groups.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Steve – I pass.... For now

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Lynn – Entertain a motion to accept the Minutes from the April Meeting. No changes were needed. Motion made by Polk, seconded by Gator Alley. No Discussion, all in favor. Remember that all chapter minutes are to be sent to the Secretary. Also, 3 members from a 4-member board is a quorum. Flyers – it is very important that we follow the SOP on the flyers.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brandy– The report wasn't mailed out because it wasn't ready. There are still some corrections. Discussed amounts of the account and monies spent. Still needing the information from Charles on the inventories.

STATE OFFICE REPORT: Brandy – New safety items were purchased. They must last till November. Gun Tickets are being handed out. All gun ticket monies need to be turned in at each delegate meeting. All trailer registrations need to be sent to STATE now.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REPORT: Charlie- Stay hydrated and stay cool. Shayne – are the registrations for 1 or 2 years. To be determined by your chapter.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Laurie -

(Handed out the certificates from January and February)

March: Most New members: **Central Florida** Largest Percentage of Growth: **Central Florida**

April: Most New Members: **Lagoon Chapter** Largest Percentage of Growth: **Polk**

Special Certificate for CENTRAL for their 156 members in 1 month. With your new membership people, have them watch the podcast with Darrin online or please contact me. Membership reports are due on the 5th along with the check for membership. It is the chapter's responsibility for getting a copy of the check to Laurie. Reminder on how members can transfer from Chapter to Chapter or choose to be a member at Large, this is a choice by the member not the chapter.

PR/COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Bill – An interview was set up with Griz, but decided to wait till there is more finality with SB 838. A write up for "Reason to Ride" has changed to an online magazine and the name change is "Sophisticated Biker". We will see how this continues before too many columns are turned in.

SAFETY TRUSTEE: Russ

1. An MSAP Binder is available for each Chapter. They are State Property and must be signed for. There will also be a thumb drive with the information on it, so the chapter can have it printed as necessary.
2. Brief Explanation of MSAP Binder
3. Importance of MSAP documentation and accountability
4. MSAP Instructor Certification Requirements
5. Anyone can set up a safety booth. You do not have to be MSAP certified.
6. All State and Chapter products must be separate from the Safety Booth.
7. No Beer or any Alcohol can be at a Safety Booth.
8. Any certified instructor can teach a MSAP class along with the paperwork.

Gulfcoast Chapter offered to cover the cost of printing. Each chapter needs to get the names of your MSAP certified people to Russ. Discussion was made about getting back into schools. Lana talked about a presentation to High School Seniors.

WEBSITE REPORT/ Masterlink: Tara – Thank you to the chapters for the patches they donated, and if the others want to donate there is still time. Also, if the chapters have an event and they want it added to Masterlink, they must email me the pics and a small blurb about it. Please send me your flyers for Masterlink.

PRODUCTS TRUSTEE REPORT: Shayne (Velcro) – A new patch just came in today. New hats. We will be looking into the button down shirts with ABATE logo. Thank you to Pasco for having us today.

LOBBYIST: Rich - Discussion on the status of SB838 and the development of the "Council" earlier in the meeting.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Bob - Excused

LEGAL COUNSEL: Jerry T has stepped down. Lynn nominated Rich Newsome. He had sent an email that he would accept if nominated. Motion was made by Polk, 2nd by Lake. Discussion: Pasco County questioned not having another person to choose from. We should wait and have a question-and-answer time. Lake - if something does happen and we wait, we won't have counsel. Daytona – There was not a question-and-answer time for Jerry T. Frenchie – should we wait? Tara – why would we not appoint Rich with all the hard work he has done and not been compensated for? Forest – per the Bylaws, the President can appoint a position until the next meeting. Tate – Supported Griz' decision to appoint Rich. Slo-Mo called for a vote. The vote was unanimous.

NCOM UPDATE – Phoenix is next weekend, Bones is going. Joey Lester from NCOM has asked Griz to sit on the Board as ABATE of Florida. Griz asked for people's input. Discussion was made. It was a positive consensus. Griz agreed to do it.

TALLAHASSEE 2024: We are going. Pasco brought up the lawyer that was asked not to come. Griz explained that the bill she was bringing up would add more confusion. We need to stay focused on SB 838.

STATE PARTY: Shayne has stepped down. Roscoe has offered their property. It would be in the cooler months. More to come.

OLD BUSINESS: Forest Chapter to introduce an item to be considered for acceptance into the By-Laws. It needs to be brought to the chapters. Upgrade the membership price to \$30 and Lifetime price \$300. All chapters need to bring back their vote at the next meeting. Any changes to bylaws will need 2/3 vote. Laurie talked about how the membership was changed to \$30 and then changed back. Several chapters had to give money back. Previously, the complaint was that the amount for Life membership was too low and we had a lot of dead weight. John said it was better to have some "ghost" us for \$150 than for \$20.

NEW BUSINESS: August we will be accepting chapter locations for Delegate meetings.

3 new chapters are to be voted on for acceptance. Fort Walton Beach – Emerald Coast, Panama City – Bay Chapter, a future chapter in Jacksonville – Safe Harbor Chapter. Emerald Coast and Safe Harbor was not present. Brandy talked about how the Bay Chapter came up with several members. Getting the chapters structured can take time. Panama City has 18 members, Bay has 14. Both of those chapters have a Board and are ready to go after being voted in. Safe Harbor has 14 already.

Motion to accept these chapters made by Daytona, Forest seconded. Questioned the seed money – Brandy said it is in the President book. Tate – talked about how much we accomplished with the 2 new chapters, think of how much we could do with 3 more. SE – could we lend the money? John, Daytona – we need to have receipts. Brandy talked about the cost of starting a chapter. Bottom line it is all ABATE money. Tate called for a vote to accept all the new chapters – Unanimous.

Bylaw Changes - Several other ideas were brought up from Forest concerning Bylaw changes. 1) Safety director as a voting member. 2) Clarify an active member. 3). ABATE acronym 4). Membership update 5). Clarify Treasurer replacement. 6) Quorum to be over 50% 7) In the absence of a E Board member, the chapter is to use Sgt of Arms, 8) Board of Directors Vote – Board member should vote with their chapters. Martha made a motion to create a Bylaw committee. Seconded by Estero. Griz agreed that we need a Bylaw committee to go over the Bylaws proposals. Daytona reminded us that there was a committee previously and it was made up by lawyers. Griz stated this one will be by the delegates. A committee was made. John from Forest, Martha from Gulfcoast, Tate from Lake, Dan from Peace River, Alfy from Daytona, Steve K the VP. They will go over the bylaw proposals and get them back to the Delegates. Frenchie stated that the VP is to be the chairman according to the Bylaws. Forest called for a vote for the Bylaw committee. All in favor.

Interest in MRF? They want us to join. \$100 a year for organizational membership. Motion made by Alfy to renew, seconded by Polk. SE – what is the benefit? Griz, we have a voice on the National level. They do most of the lobbying in DC. The vote was made, all in favor.

Leadership Seminars – There is a cost. Griz opinion, there is a need. Forest made the motion, seconded by Daytona. Discussion: Some chapters can't afford the cost to send their members. Some of the Board members would offer to do their class by zoom. Some of classes will need to be in person such as Treasurer and President Class. Forest - the Board is to determine how it is to be presented. Tate – try 2 classes and see who shows up. Brandy – we can also do it before a meeting. Steve – I've already looked into rooms in Vero Beach. Martha – we should hold the meetings on zoom and the instructor to choose a couple of dates. Martin – Zoom would be more technological. Tate – July is short notice. Reminded us that the delegates voted to be in person concerning Delegate meeting. Why don't we do this the same. Lynn – suggested Hybrid classes. Deb C – most HOA are zoom meeting. Daytona – Zoom is easy. Forest – Call for a vote. Steve pulled Vero Beach. Vote was made “to start the Leadership Seminars again.” In Favor – 25, Opposed 0 / Abstained 0. Some did not vote. The Board will come up with a date.

Welcome to the 3 New Chapters

GOOD TO THE ORDER: Information for the get-together after the meeting. Silent Auction and 50/50 were announced.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Corr