

ABATE OF VIRGINIA, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2011
OUTLANDERS RESTAURANT & SALOON
LYNCHBURG, VA

The July meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Executive Director Sharon Keaton with the following members present and chapters represented: "Bowtie" Spurgeon- Coalfield; Sharon Keaton- Culpeper; Anthony Tronco, Jeff Martin, Mark "Chop" Booth, Stan & Holly Bryant and Tim Cartrett- Iron Horse Cavalry; "Shag"- Lonesome Pine; Joe Wagner- Mason-Dixon; GW Peterson- Old Dominion; Steve Skeens- River City; Lisa & John Bilotta- Virginia Cruisers.

A quorum was established and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The minutes from the previous meeting (June) were accepted as published in the newsletter.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Joe Wagner reported on the current account, deposits made and checks written. He stated that the MRF membership dues will be due soon. A motion was made, seconded and approved to pay the MRF dues. Joe was asked about life membership by a prospective member, reminded everyone that the life membership is still \$400.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Joe is working on printing membership list(s), he will forward to chapter directors. He is also working on mailing labels for the current newsletter; members should be receiving this week.

NEWSLETTER REVIEW

Sharon asked everyone to supply names of businesses or legislators in each area so they could also receive newsletters. Later, a motion was made, seconded and approved to stop printing and mailing the paper newsletters and to have an electronic version on the website after January 1, 2012. Motion was seconded, and discussion followed.

Shag said that some members do not have internet access and would prefer to continue receiving newsletters in the mail. Lisa said that First Capitol Chapter would also oppose this change. It was recommended and agreed to have a small quantity of newsletters printed and mailed to those members who prefer receiving a hard copy.

The printing and mailing expense of the "Freewheelin" publication is more than the organization brings in each year. It is the largest expense sustained and Sharon does not feel it is justified to spend the larger portion of each membership on a publication that does not draw advertisers. Continuing this expenditure is simply not good business, not the most beneficial use of membership funds.

After continued discussion, the Board agreed that newsletters would be printed and mailed through the end of 2011. The policy change would not take effect until January, 2012. Current paying advertisers already have web links on

our website. Most ads are free business cards from businesses who offer the 10% discount to ABATE members.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Prospective candidates and changes in Richmond next year due to redistricting will change makeup of the General Assembly. Sharon and GW said we need to be prepared for anything and would like to be ready to submit proposals to legislators soon. Sharon reminded everybody to watch for supportive candidates.

VCOM will hold a legislative roundtable August 13th at the Marriott Hotel (500 East Broad Street) in Richmond starting at 11:00 a.m. to discuss proposed legislation for 2012. One of the topics will surely be "motorcycle only checkpoints".

Helmet law reform options for 2012 legislative session were reviewed. HLR success in other states and potential language for a reform bill were discussed. The Board determined that it is best to wait until after the November election results are in before seeking patronage.

WEBSITE

Stevie Lynne, Culpeper chapter member, has assumed the duties as ABATE of Virginia webmistress and is in the process of updating items to the new website. Members are encouraged to send motorcycle-related items of interest for posting, events, pictures, articles of interest. Send web submissions to abateva@gmail.com.

The Board would like to thank Mike Brigham for his work as ABATE of VA webmaster for the past five years. Mike is still politically active as a VCDL (VA Citizens Defense League) member, a like-minded activists group. The Board wishes him all the best.

PRODUCTS

Lisa said that we will need to order various pins, patches, and stickers soon, some stock items are low. Sharon or GW will check on T-shirts prices with the printer in Brandy Station. Steve will check can-cooler pricing with his past supplier. Steve also brought a sample of a light/pen that he motioned we consider for Lobby Day 2012. The motion was seconded and approved for purchase of 1,000 pens for promotion/distribution.

NCOM, AMA, MRF

(Motorcycle Riders Foundation, American Motorcyclists Association, National Coalition of Motorcyclists)

Shag reminded everyone to check the NCOM website to get the latest news. A link to NCOM, AMA and MRF sites are all on our website under LINKS. The latest News Bites from NCOM is also posted on our site; check it out, ABATEVA.org, ABATEVA.com, and ABATEofVA.com.

ELECTIONS

The floor was opened for nominations for elected Board officers, Executive Director, Finance Director, and Operations Manager.

Joe Wagner agreed to accept the Board's nomination as Financial Director. John Bilotta also accepted nomination for Operations Director. Sharon accepts nomination as Executive Director for another term, for lack of another interested candidate. (she says three years is a long time; looking for a replacement). Any other nominations? Board Directors are encouraged to ask members if they are interested in running for a Board Officer position. Nominations are open until elections, to be held at the September BOD meeting.

OPEN FLOOR

Sharon proposed a motion to hold only four formal Board of Directors meetings per year, with unofficial, topic-oriented meetings and e-mail discussions throughout the year. Sharon suggested business meetings when necessary, to cover membership, treasury and newsletter issues. Legislative meetings could be held anywhere around the state, at any time there is interest in having discussions, making decisions. All members would be encouraged to attend, as always. The motion was seconded and approved.

The State Rally went well, thank you to the Iron Horse Cavalry Chapter members for their hard work and efforts.

Reservations have already been made at the campground for next year.

Bowtie pointed out that the Coalfield Chapter is the correct title and should not be confused with another group, the Coalfield Riders.

The Board discussed and decided that the next newsletter will be printed and mailed after the September Board meeting.

Sharon noted that there are only a few supportive advertisers for Freewheeling newsletter. Mark "Chop" Booth agreed to accept the position of Advertising Director.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and approved.

The next Board of Directors meeting is to be held at Outlanders Restaurant & Saloon in Lynchburg at 11:00 a.m. on September 18, 2011.

Minutes Taken and Submitted by John Bilotta