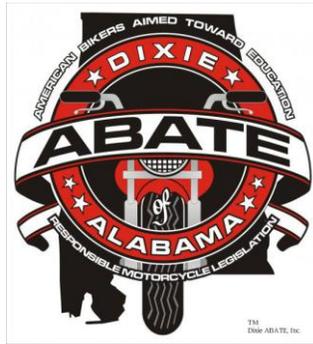


DIXIE ABATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Matthew Schroeder: State Director  
Shane Coker: Assistant State Director  
Larry Lindsey: Legislative Director  
Kris Cook: Secretary/Treasurer  
Address:  
612 32<sup>nd</sup> St. S, #206  
Birmingham, AL 35233



SOUTHERN REGION, MOBILE CHAPTER  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Michael Stafford: Region Director  
Michael Stieber: Assistant Region Director

Freddie Wheeler: Treasurer  
John "Evo Chico" Bethea: Sgt.-at-Arms

NORTHEAST REGION, NOCCALULA  
FALLS CHAPTER  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

James "Ghost" Johnson, Director  
Tom Wade, Assistant Director  
Jim Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer  
Garland Medlock, Membership Director

[www.dixieabate.org](http://www.dixieabate.org)

DIXIE ABATE STATE MEETING APRIL 6, 2013: JIM N NICK'S BBQ, ATLANTA HWY, MONTGOMERY, AL

Members present:

Garland Medlock, Nocalula Falls Chapter Membership Director  
Matthew Schroeder, State Director  
Kris Cook, State Secretary/Treasurer  
Larry Lindsey, State Legislative Director  
Shane Coker, State Assistant Director  
Ira "Cowboy" Jones, Organizer, Tri-County Chapter  
Michael Stieber, Mobile Chapter Assistant Director  
Michael Stafford, Mobile Chapter Director  
James "Ghost" Johnson, Nocalula Chapter Director  
David "Bluesman" Fail

The purpose of this meeting was to finalize plans for the Ride to the Capitol on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Matt called the meeting to order, Kris read the minutes of the last meeting, and gave the treasurer's report. No one had any changes for the meeting notes, so they stand as read.

Shane reported that he would be finished with the new bylaws by July. The new set will be much streamlined from the ones we use now.

Larry told us that on April 17, the governor would present a proclamation of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month for the state of Alabama. We do not get the original proclamation.

Larry also reported that the "M" endorsement bill, HB75, has had its second reading and is in committee. The senate version is SB185. He said the fact that there is no requirement for an M endorsement to ride a motorcycle was simply an oversight. We discussed whether there would be a skills evaluation required, and his answer was, "We are not going there." He reported on the progress of other bills that we have some interest in, including HB120.

Tag cost for distinctive tags, HB23, has had two readings and passed the house. The cost for a distinctive tag for a motorcycle will be the same as a distinctive tag for a car, if this passes. Ghost asked about a Disabled Veteran tag, and Matt said if you qualify, you can get a Disabled Veteran tag now. Breast Cancer tags are also available.

Pitts Media has been hired to produce the video for the state's drivers ed classes. The cost is around \$8,000.00. Dixie ABATE will come up with \$2,000.00, and the Alabama Traffic Safety Center's Motorcycle Safety Program will pay the rest. This video will be completed by the end of June. Larry is on the agenda of the Gulf Shores High School's statewide meeting, to present it. Larry plans to conduct an in-service meeting before school starts, to train ABATE members to present this program to drivers ed students in the state's high schools. We are actively looking for Dixie ABATE members who want to volunteer to go into Driver's Ed classes to teach this material.

The Motorcycle Safety Program's leadership, including member Rick Randolph, is also working on billboards to put up around the state. Within the coming week, they plan to have billboards up in Dothan, Montgomery, and Mobile.

We planned our May 2 "meet and greet" at the state house. We plan to target Farley and Waggoner, sponsors of the M endorsement bills. Meet outside the state house at 8 AM that morning.

Michael Stafford said that the Mobile chapter is having trouble gaining new members, possibly because of the mistaken idea that all we are about is doing away with helmet laws. Kris said that she will make sure the Mobile Chapter has a full list of members in that area. It's possible that some members in the area don't even know there is a chapter. Communication hasn't been the best, due to a lack of time on the part of both MommaKat and Kris.

The Noccoalula Falls leadership said they are going to stage a car-motorcycle accident on Main Street in Gadsden on First Friday. They will put motorcycle awareness signs up, and channel 33/40 should cover it.

Cowboy said he would like to start a chapter in the Montgomery area, to be called the East Central Region, Tri-County Chapter. He asked what the requirements were. He will need at least five people who have been Dixie ABATE members at least one year, and he will need to be able to elect three officers.

There was some discussion about the name of the Southern Region Mobile Chapter. Maybe "Mobile" shouldn't be in that chapter's name, to protect the Baldwin County members from feeling left out. This matter was tabled, to be decided by the Southern Region's leadership and members. The state BOD will abide by the wishes of the Southern Region on this matter.

Someone asked if we could invest our extra treasury money in a CD so that it could earn extra interest, whereupon a hearty laugh was shared.

Cowboy asked about our insurance coverage. That was also a short discussion, as we have no insurance. We briefly discussed whether we needed event insurance for our Ride to the Capitol. We need to check with the MRF and maybe Satch too about how/where to obtain insurance. Ghost asked about release forms for the ride. Matthew will print these up.

We made plans to set up at Fatdog's swap meet to benefit Dixie ABATE on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Kris and Garland will set up. This event is on US Hwy 278, just outside of Piedmont, Alabama.

We talked about creating an annual calendar of ABATE events, so all members could have plenty of time to plan to attend. This will be a good thing to do, next year and beyond.

Cowboy said it would be good if we could have a big group picture of members underneath one of our billboards.

The Southern Region wants a billboard down their way. We need to start working on this, funds permitting.

Matt said there will be bright orange ABATE A&E t-shirts for volunteers for the Capitol Ride, provided courtesy of the Noccoalula Falls chapter.

There followed a detailed discussion of everything that had to happen to make the Ride a success on April 20<sup>th</sup>. It takes a lot of volunteers and solid logistics to pull off an event like this.

NEXT MEETING: 2 PM Saturday, June 15, at American Legion Post #133, 4980 Main Street, Millbrook, AL, 36054. For information call Cowboy at 334-349-9688. We will probably go eat somewhere afterwards.