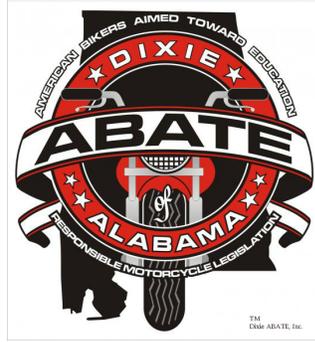


DIXIE ABATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Matthew Schroeder: State Director
Shane Coker: Assistant State Director
Larry Lindsey: Education Director
Gene Powell: Legislative Director
Kris Cook: Secretary/Treasurer

Address:
612 32nd Street South, #206
Birmingham, AL 35233
For information: 205-617-9944



www.dixieabate.org

NORTHEAST REGION, NOCCALULA
FALLS CHAPTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

James "Ghost" Johnson, Director
Shane Coker, Secretary/Treasurer
Garland Medlock, Assistant Chapter Director

EAST CENTRAL REGION, TRI-COUNTY
CHAPTER (Montgomery area)

Ira "Cowboy" Jones, Organizer
Jeffrey Meck, Assistant Organizer

MEETING NOTES: 10/28/17: Stell's Sports Grill, Muscle Shoals, AL

In attendance:

Kris Cook
Matthew Schroeder
Michael Stieber
Tim Williams (New member)
Phil Davis (Charter member)
Dustin Lewis (New member)
Cole Mobley (New member)
Skip Dobson (New member)
Don Redman (Guest)

Kris passed out notes from the last meeting (8/19/17) and an up-to-date treasurer's report. Both were approved.

Matt reported on his experience at the MRF's Meeting of the Minds in Williamsburg, VA, this past September:

- A. The MRF is operating in the black. The move from DC to Alexandria was a big cost saver.
- B. Membership is holding steady. Some old members have not renewed, but new members are coming in.
- C. Dr. Todd Adkins, NRA, compared the motorcycling community to smokers in the past. "Who would have thought that in 1960 when 80% of the US was smoking, that today you can only smoke in designated areas?" If we rest on our laurels and don't stay vigilant, this can happen to us.
- D. Concealed carry is increasing nationwide with the reciprocity law. The right to concealed carry nationwide will probably come in 2019.
- E. Sunshine Beer, Chairperson for the National Association of State Motorcycle Safety Administrators (SMSA), called for all concerned motorcycle organizations to work together even if they don't see eye to eye on all topics.
- F. Stats on why crashes happen.
- G. Megan Ekstrom, MRF VP of Governmental Relations and Public Affairs: "Profiling nationwide is still an issue of great concern. We, in Alabama, have it pretty good with very few if any incidents occurring. It is important that we contact our federal reps and senators and have them support HR318 / SR 154.
- H. Changes to the renewable fuel standard: E-10 vs. E-15. The only E-15 that has been reported in Alabama has been in Montgomery. The MRF is supporting independent studies of ethanol in motorcycles. The MRF also supports extensive testing of these vehicles for motorcycle recognition and responsiveness to motorcycles sharing the roadway with these autonomous cars.
- I. Senate Motorcycle Caucus
- J. Alabama's Senate race. Matt send questions to both candidates.
- K. Contacting ALDOT for road hazards and concerns

Matt gave us the name and address of our contact at ALDOT if we have road concerns, at least in the north part of the state:

Seth Burkett
North Region Public Information Officer
1525 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 500
Huntsville, AL 35806
256-505-4964
burketts@dot.state.al.us
also Keith Janes janesk@dot.state.al.us

We discussed issues of concern: drivers exceeding speed limits, speeding through yellow lights, elderly drivers, especially those who stay in the left lane, not enough law enforcement on the roads, county roads in terrible shape, particularly in the Tusculumbia area. Might be good if there was a state lottery with a percentage of the income earmarked for road maintenance. Other concerns included grass clippings blown out onto county roads and state highways.

The quad cities area of the state has had too many motorcycle fatalities this year, with most being the result of a ROW violation, not the motorcyclist's fault. The population of the quad cities is roughly the same as Tampa. Tampa has 8,000 registered motorcycles, compared to 13,000 in the Shoals area. The motorcycle community in this area is close-knit. Is ABATE the answer? Can ABATE have a positive influence on drivers in this area, and the whole state, to help eliminate these wrecks? How is the best way for us to tackle the problem?

Cole discussed a new ABATE chapter serving the Franklin/Lauderdale/Colbert county area.

We discussed fundraising. A gun raffle might be a good thing to do.

We discussed our organizational documents and our policy on year-end balances in chapter accounts.

We discussed setting up the ABATE tent at the Landing when the Trail of Tears ride comes through. We need two tents – one at Natchez Trace Harley Davidson, and one at Spring Park, or maybe at Waterloo.

We discussed Freddy's suggestion that we pursue legislation that would allow a motorcyclist to use the right shoulder to go to the next exit if traffic is at a standstill on the highway. Cole is a first responder, and said this was a bad idea because emergency vehicles need the shoulder kept clear. We will discuss this more.

Our next meeting is at Rose's 1901 Garage, 3200 Hall's Mill Road, Mobile, AL 36606, at 2 PM on Saturday, December 9, 2017.