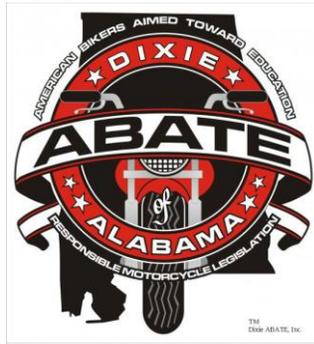


DIXIE ABATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Matthew Schroeder: State Director
Shane Coker: Assistant State Director
Larry Lindsey: Education Director
Freddy Wheeler: Acting 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: 12/08/18, Original Oyster House, Spanish Fort, Alabama

In attendance:

Matthew Schroeder
Kris Cook
John "Evo Chico" Bethea
James "Tom" Toomey
Gee Jay Jones
Larry Lindsey
Fran Barber-Bruyn
Neil Bruyn
Brian Isphording
Momma Kat Zimmer
Michael Steiber
Rodney Green
Freddy Wheeler

The meeting was called to order at 1 PM in the Chart Room of the Original Oyster House, on the Causeway, in Spanish Fort. Kris passed out meeting notes and the treasurer's report. No one had anything to add or change.

Larry gave the education report. He'll be in Montgomery in January, teaching at Lee & Lanier. Juju and Larry are currently the only ones teaching driver's ed. We need more members willing to teach. He has a drivers ed teacher in Greenville who is teaching our module.

Larry discussed the upcoming legislative session. There are many new legislators and the 2019 session will be the first year in the four year term, which means they won't start until the first Tuesday in March. They will come in ready to start passing bills. The biggest thing will probably be the gas tax.

Our best way in with them, when we meet them, may be to talk about safety things – if we could get some fired up about getting a road test required to get a motorcycle endorsement, We still plan to work on the "dead red" legislation.

We are still planning the chili reception for legislators. Becky Nordgren (R-District 29, which includes Gadsden) said she was willing to secure a room for it.

We need to poll legislators to see if any of them are motorcycle enthusiasts.

Dixie ABATE urges its member to join Riders 4 Riders, and R4R encourages their members to become members of Dixie ABATE. An alliance between these two organizations will benefit both organizations.

Freddy reported on his conversation with Victor Gaston, (R-District 100, which includes Mobile) wherein Mr. Gaston said he would pre-introduce a "dead red" bill. We need to make a concerted effort to identify the people on the committee who will be responsible for reviewing this legislation. Larry and Freddy have knocked on Mr. Gaston's door, so he is aware of us.

Freddy is also gauging local interest in pursuing legislation that would allow us to ride up the shoulder of the highway to the next exit in the case of traffic being at a standstill. Being stopped on the highway in extreme conditions, such

as a lightning storm or intense heat can be threatening to a motorcyclist's life. Per Rodney, GWRRA has information on his much heat collects in your helmet when you are not moving on a hot day.

Other future legislation to look at: why do we pay a luxury tax on a motorcycle when we tag it? A motorcycle is transportation, not a luxury. We are taxed as though it were a recreational vehicle.

Kris to send Freddie an updated membership roster.

Our goal is the same – to make sure that legislation that has anything to do with us is done in accordance with our wishes. Because, after all, we are the ones who ride. And if we aren't showing up, they won't know we even exist.

Freddy reported that the AMA supports H.R. 5158, which has just been approved by the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. It will direct the Secretary of Transportation to reopen the nomination process for National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads. This program could benefit the "Mother Road", historic Route 66, which has fallen into disrepair since it lost its designation and federal funding.

Freddy urged our membership in the AMA, and Kris urged our membership in the MRF. All these groups need to work together. When one organization engages something that affects us all, we need to be informed and cohesive. We can also quote the AMA and MRF as a valid source of statistics. The AMA is calling for motorcyclists to join forces in order to support legislation that specifies distracted behavior that contributes to crashes and subjects the vehicle operator to enhanced penalties. "Drivers who kill others while under the influence of alcohol or drugs face stiffer penalties, and so should those who purposely take their eyes or attention off the road." -- www.americanmotorcyclist.com/Home/News-Story/distracted-driving-kills-motorcyclists-1, February 28, 2017.

Matt commented on texting while driving being a secondary offense in Alabama. It should be a primary offense. Senator Jim McClendon, R-Springville, has said he plans to introduce a hands-free law that will make it illegal to hold your phone while driving. The law will be similar to one passed in Georgia earlier this year. Alabama already bans the use of these devices by teen drivers. The fines in Georgia are \$50 and one point for a first conviction, \$100 and two points for a second, and \$150 and three points for the third and subsequent violations. If a driver receives 15 points in penalties within a two-year period, their driver's license is suspended.

Mama Kat noted that even hands-free use of a phone is distracted driving. Kris concurred, noting that all of the speeding tickets she has gotten in recent years have been while she was on the phone.

Matt has been in touch with ABATE of Georgia. They have invited us to set up at their Cave Spring Motorcycle Rally, on Big Cedar Creek, in Cave Springs, GA in July 2019. The rally isn't far past the state line. Matt will set up at the event. Their director is Brian "Skinny Bob" Clifford.

We are eyeing hosting the MRF's MOTM (Meeting of the Minds) in 2022, or at least co-hosting it with abate of Georgia. This event is held the third or fourth weekend in September every year.

We briefly discussed profiling and whether we'd ever been profiled just because we were on a motorcycle. There were a few stories told. Profiling is real, and we need to fight it wherever it pops up. And it sometimes goes the other way, in the event that the LEO who pulls you over is a motorcycle enthusiast. You might just have a conversation about your bike and get let go.

Matt reported that the MRF has contracted with a Washington-based lobbying firm to push the House and Senate anti-profiling resolutions. He said Oregon and Washington have passed state anti-profiling resolutions.

We noted that the MRF is raising membership rates, and discussed ABATE's commitment to helping pay for the possible new CQ Engage software they propose to employ, for tracking state legislation. We'd make the payment annually.

Freddie recognized The Bruyns for their tireless work in reclaiming a 22-acre abandoned private cemetery, Oaklawn Memorial, in Toulminville, Alabama. It has been abandoned, and there are hundreds of veterans buried there, from World War I, II, Korea, and the Persian Gulf wars. Fran is trying to have it designated as a National Historic Cemetery. She calls this project "Operation Overload." It would be good if it could become a destination, maybe part of an Alabama Canoe Trail. Maybe we could talk with David Haynes, a well-known outdoorsman and author in Alabama, and see if he would include it in one of his books.

Freddy reminded us of what Wolf talked about at our meeting at Natural Bridge, which is for us to promote the image of motorcycling every chance we get. Riders are always doing something generous for someone else, and it will help our image if we publicize it. Gee Jay said R4R was doing a ride the next day, for St. Mary's Orphanage. If we emphasize the positive side of motorcycling, we may take the focus off of how dangerous it is, and how many riders are lost.

Michasel talked about us putting up a booth at Vintage Fest. We have tried that before and found it cost-prohibitive. Zoom Motorsports also requires insurance, which we cannot afford.

Our next meeting is at the Shoney's at 950 Lake Mitchell Road, Clanton, AL 35045, at 2 PM on Saturday, February 16, 2019. This is at exit 208 off of I-65. At least ten people have to show up to eat, or the room costs us \$75.00, so please show up!