



**A.B.A.T.E. of Montana**  
**American Bikers Aiming Toward Education**

**STATE MEETING MINUTES**

**Saturday April 21, 2018**  
**Parker's Super Service**  
**13 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Miles City, MT**

**State Meeting Opening:** Call to order by Coordinator, **Gary Schiller** at: 11:30 PM

**Chapter Roll Call:** Chapters either present or represented by proxy were: **Houndstooth** – Proxy, **Lower Yellowstone** – Present, **Prairie Riders** – Present, **State** – Present.

**Officers' Roll Call:** Present: **State Coordinator** – Gary Schiller, **State Deputy Coordinator** – Scott Swanson, **State Treasurer** – Rod Comer, **State Membership Secretary** – CJ Erhardt, and **State Secretary** – Jean Schiller.

**Quorum Present**

**The Pledge of Allegiance** was recited, followed by a moment of silence for our lost and downed brothers and sisters. Please keep the family of Arnie Aames and Jim Beardo in your thoughts and prayers. Jim and Arnie passed away in 2017.

**Introduction of Officers and Audience:** **Gary Schiller**, State Coordinator, **Scott Swanson**, State Deputy Coordinator, **Rod Comer**, State Treasurer, **CJ Erhardt**, State Membership Secretary, **Jean Schiller**, State Secretary. Chapter Representatives: **Lower Yellowstone:** Tish Neuleib, Kristin Kennedy, Pat Vaira, Carrie Brost, Kevin Brost, Dan Guenzi, Dawn Guenzi, Linda Lohse, Kim Rhodes, Mike Rhodes and Michelle Kutzler; **Prairie Riders:** Alan Parker; **Hi-Line:** Absent

**Secretary's Report:** The December 2, 2017 were accepted with the following corrections: General Fund: \$12,658.21 s/b \$12,828.21; Kristen s/b Kristin; Jim Etheridge s/b Shawn Etheridge; Eric Oster s/b under Prairie Riders; Kim purchased one cartridge not two. Motion made to accept with corrections by **Dawn Guenzi**, second by **CJ**. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** **Rod Comer** gave the following information as of April 21, 2018:

**General Fund:** **Balance of \$12,109.26 + Savings of \$26.84**

**Education Fund:** **Balance of \$2,573.75**

Motion made to accept by **Kim Rhodes**, second by **Michelle Kutzler**. Motion passed.

**Membership Report:** Given by **CJ Erhardt**, State Membership Secretary. We have 283 **current members** as of 04/21/2018. Current Chapter Memberships are:

**Hi-Line:** 3 Members

**Houndstooth:** 18 Members

**Lower Yellowstone:** 253 Members

**Prairie Riders:** 7 Members

**State:** 2 Members

**CJ** brought up the fact that he is concerned about the Hi-Line Chapter. We do not have the Officer names nor have we seen or heard from them since Nick moved. Jean and Gary will contact Kyndra about the Chapter and see what is going on. On the plus side membership forms and membership cards are being submitted and distributed in a timely manner. Motion made to accept by **Gary Schiller**. Second by **Rod Comer**. Motion passed.

**Newsletter Report:** No Report

**MMSAC Report:** No Report

**Products Report:** **CJ** reported there is \$1,075.96 in the products account with no orders or sales in 2017. **CJ** checked on a company out of Seattle on the Chapter pins that Kim had asked about. He noted that he would need to order 100 or more in order to get a decent price. He will continue to check on prices through other companies. Motion made to accept the report by **Rod**. Second by **Gary**. Motion passed.

**State Events Report:** No Report. If you have ideas on a run or event, please e-mail to a State Officer.

**Safety & Awareness Report:** No Report

**Committee Reports:** None

**Correspondence & Communication:** None

**Short Break: 12:25 to 12.45**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**2017 Tax Update:** **Rod** reported that he received all the tax information in a timely manner and the Annual Report has been filed through the Secretary of State. **Rod** talked to **Connie** from Black Eagle on their Chapter closure and she is going to try to get the money for us. **Rod** does have the bank account information but would like **Connie** to try first. Also any new Chapter will require a State Officer be on the bank account.

**State Insurance:** **Rod** reported that after some confusion the insurance has been renewed and paid through PayneWest.

**Newsletter Editor:** : **Kristin Kennedy** asked about our Facebook page..since Mike Howell created and administered our previous Facebook do we want to create a new page or just use the Lower Yellowstone page? **Kristin** noted that to bring in the younger age group we need to use a website as well as Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. The problem with a website is that it tends to be cost prohibitive. After discussion a motion was made by **Dawn Guenzi** "to have **Kristin** check into costs to setup a website for ABATE of Montana by the next meeting." Second by **Carrie Brost**. Motion passed

**Kristen** also asked what needs to be included in the Newsletter. Dawn and Jean said they would send her copies of newsletters from previous years so she has a basic template to work with.

**Membership Cards:** **Kim** is doing an excellent job on the cards. She handed out the letter that accompanies the membership card and noted that she corrected it but wanted to make sure we were OK with the corrections. After reviewing the letter, additional corrections and additions were noted. Kim will make these changes. With these changes new letters will need to be printed. The cost for Kim to print the letters on her computer is only six (6) cents. Is it OK for Kim to just print the letters as needed? **Scott** made a motion "to have Kim print the letters for the new/renewal members on her own computer with the state to pay for the paper and cartridge." Second by **Kristin**. Motion passed.

**Bulk Mailing:** **Scott** found that ABATE can use the bulk mailing machine at the Chamber of Commerce in Sidney. We can have stickers and stamps pre-printed and just use as needed. The question is do we have to have an "X" amount of mail? Carrie noted that normally it is based on an "X" amount under a zip code. We will need to do additional research to see if we qualify and/or is it by zip code or number of pieces.

**Business Cards:** **Kim** reported she got prices on the business cards. Kim can make the cards for eight (8) cents a piece. She still needs the contact information for the various areas but suggested since Lower Yellowstone has such a strong membership she use a member from there as well as someone from the State Officers. **Kristin** made a motion "that Kim do the business cards with the State Membership Secretary(CJ) and Scott, State Deputy Coordinator, as the contact information." Second by **Carrie**. Motion passed.

## NEW BUSINESS

**MMSAC: Representatives:** Jim Morrow contacted **Kristin Kennedy** about becoming a representative for the Montana Motorcycle Safety Advisory Committee. Kristin is interested. Per MCA 20-25-1004 two (2) motorcycle riders representing motorcycle groups can be nominated for appointment by the Governor. **Kim Rhodes** would also like to be recommended. A motion was made by **Scott** "to submit Kristin and Kim's names to the Governor's Office for nomination of the Montana Motorcycle Safety Advisory Committee." Second by **Dan Guenzi**. Motion passed.

Since time is a factor, rather than having the members submit individual letters of recommendation, Jean will complete the form and attach a letter on behalf of ABATE of Montana.

Kim will also try to touch base with some Montana Highway Patrol Officers to see if they are interested in representing the "peace officer" opening.

**Training Classes:** **Kim** contacted Jim Morrow in Havre about the training schedule. Currently there are no classes scheduled for Eastern Montana. **Dawn** also sent a message to Jim through the Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety Facebook page. Dawn outlined the need for motorcycle safety classes in the Eastern Montana area. There are numerous folks wanting to take the class. Once Dawn hears from Jim, the next person she will contact is State Representative Alan Doane.

**Informational and Quick Reference Booklet:** **Gary** would like to see a quick reference booklet on the process and steps required to start up a new Chapter as well as an overview of what is required of the Chapter Officers. This quick reference will allow new Chapter Officers to have the knowledge to start up a chapter as well as an idea of what is expected as an officer of the Chapter. We also need to make sure they have copies of the State By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation. **Rod** already has this information since he seems to be

the "go to" person on these questions. Rod will send this information out to the State and Chapter Officers. After review by the Officers, we will decide if they need updating.

**Succession Plan:** CJ brought up an excellent point...outgoing officers need to pass on the information, By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation, etc. to incoming officers. We cannot expect a new officer to perform their duties if they do not have the information and resources required to perform the job.

**Motorcycle Awareness Month:** May is Motorcycle Awareness month. Chapters are encouraged to make use of PSA's, billboards, posters and facebook to remind folks that it is that time of year and motorcycles will be on the roads. Dawn was wondering if anyone had a template or copy of a Proclamation signed by the Governor for Motorcycle Awareness month. If you have one, please send to Dawn.

## CHAPTER UPDATES

**Hi-Line: No Report**

**Lower Yellowstone Chapter:** Dawn reported the 2017 Toy Run was a record year. Glendive raised \$15,000 in toys and Sidney raised \$7,000. In addition to the record year, Lower Yellowstone was nominated and awarded the Non-Profit Chamber Award for 2017. January 19, 2018 was the annual Birthday Party. This year it was held in Sidney at the Sidney Masonic Lodge. The party included food, auction, 50/50 and meeting. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual ½ & 1/2 pool tournament took place on March 3, 2018 at the Oasis Bar in Glendive. May 5, 2018 is the date for the Bike Show. This will be held at the Sidney Event Center and will include a dance and dinner. The Bike Blessing will be held May 20, 2018. After the blessing, folks will ride to the VA Home in Glendive and then on to Fallon to eat. The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Drive-Poker Run & Hog Roast will be held June 23, 2018 in Glendive. Also around May 8th the 2-wheel dinner rides on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month will start.

**Houndstooth:** No Report

**Middle of Montana:** No Report

**Prairie Riders:** No Report but a big "Thank You" to Alan Parker for the BBQ lunch of burgers, salads and chips.

**Calendar of Events:** No updates at this.

**Next State Meeting Location & Time:** Tentatively will try for a meeting in September 15, 2018 in Havre. If this doesn't work will try for another location.

**50/50 Drawing:** \$22 total – Kristin Kennedy won and donated her share(\$11) back to the Business Card Fund.

**Meeting Adjournment:** Gary made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Jean Schiller, State Secretary

E-mail version of the meeting minutes do NOT contain all of the handouts that were distributed during the meeting.