



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

STATE MEETING MINUTES

Saturday December 2, 2017
VFW Post 1634
Billings, MT

State Meeting Opening: Call to order by Coordinator, **Gary Schiller** at: 1:25 PM

Chapter Roll Call: Chapters either present or represented by proxy were: **Houndstooth** – Present, **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 Russell Strait in your thoughts and prayers. Russell passed away earlier this week.

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: **Houndstooth:** Rich Mundt; **Lower Yellowstone:** Tish Neuleib, Eric Oster, Earl Goddard, Cori Goddard, Kim Rhodes, Mike Rhodes, Shawn Etheridge and Heather Bacon; **Prairie Riders:** David Fisher.

Secretary's Report: The December 3, 2016 minutes were accepted as is with no corrections. Motion made to accept by **Gary Schiller**, second by **Kim Rhodes**. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: **Rod Comer** gave the following information as of December 2, 2017:

General Fund: **Balance of \$12,658.21 + Savings of \$26.84**

Education Fund: **Balance of \$2,667.32**

Note: Black Eagle folded, but as of this date, State still has not received funds from the closure of their bank accounts. Upon receipt, funds will be deposited into the Education Fund. Motion made to accept by **Heather Bacon**; second by **Scott Swanson**. Motion passed.

Membership Report: Given by **CJ Erhardt**, State Membership Secretary. We have 259 **current members** as of 12/2/2017. Current Chapter Memberships are:

Hi-Line: 8 Members

Houndstooth: 16 Members

Lower Yellowstone: 231 Members

Prairie Riders: 2 Members

State: 2 Members

CJ brought up the fact that we are losing members and Chapters are folding. No one has confirmed or contacted Middle of Montana but it appears that they are also folding. Motion made to accept by **Rod Comer**, second by **Jean Schiller**. Motion passed.

Newsletter Report: No Report

MMSAC Report: No Report – In an attempt to find out what is actually going on with MMSAC, **Gary** went to the Capitol and found that there has not been a meeting since 2009. He was directed to the State Auditor's office who will contact him with more information and details. As of this meeting, they have not called.

Jim Ethreridge has many questions and concerns as do other members, on where the funds are being spent from the registration fees assessed on motorcycles, as well as why they cannot get rider training courses set up in Sidney. With so many unanswered questions **Scott** suggested the topic be tabled until the next meeting when hopefully the questions and concerns will be answered.

Short Break: 2:30-3:00

Products Report: **CJ** reported there is still \$949.96 in the products account with no orders or sales in 2017. **CJ** is still holding off on the order for the "slap on" cozies. He is wondering if folks will be interested in the cozie. **Kim** was wondering if pins can be made instead of Chapter patches. **CJ** will check into this and see if the company might carry a generic A.B.A.T.E. pin. **Rod** mentioned that A.B.A.T.E. pins are available on e-bay. **Rich** was wondering if the State carries a personal name rocker. We don't but **CJ** will check with Vickie on a price and if/when she can make them. Motion made to accept the report by **Rod**, second by **Jean**. Motion accepted.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Newsletter Editor: : **Kristen Kennedy** would like to volunteer to do the Newsletter. **Scott's** understanding is this newsletter would be sent by e-mail or web based. **Gary** made a motion to "offer Kristen the position of Newsletter Editor, second by **CJ**. Motion passed.

CJ or **Scott** will also find out if **Kristen** would be interested in managing the facebook site and/or a website. Since the Newsletter will be by e-mail or web based and sometimes the e-mails are hard to read **CJ** will verify e-mail addresses with **Dawn** prior to sending them to **Kristen**. **Rod** will contact **Mike Howell** since he originally created and administered our Facebook.

To aid in this project, the Membership Form will be updated to include a check off box verifying the member acknowledges and permits the use of their e-mail for use in sending out the Newsletter. Please note: we do not sell the e-mail list to any other organizations or companies.

Membership Cards: The machine has been purchased and **Kim** has it up and running. The turn-around time is great; a big "thank you" to **Kim** for her volunteering and also for the donation of two (2) ink cartridges. Purchasing this machine was the best decision A.B.A.T.E made and the best money ever spent.

Bulk Mailing: **Scott** checked out postage costs and the bulk mailing question. He found that A.B.A.T.E. could use the bulk mailing machine at the Chamber of Commerce in Sidney. This is great news but **Kim** does not live in Sidney so unless the envelopes can be pre-stamped it will not work.

NEW BUSINESS

YE Tax Reminder: **Rod**, wanted to remind folks that it is that time of year again. He will need each Chapter to complete their YE information for the General Fund and Education Fund and return to him **by the end of January, no exceptions.** Since it makes things simpler for the accountant, and they are working for the Chapters, **Rod** asks that you complete the Micro-Soft Word document that he has sent in the past and will send again if you need a copy. **Rod** is not sure if we were ever charged for 2016. **Rod** is also still waiting on Black Eagle to send in their funds and now will be waiting on Middle of Montana. To circumvent more issues like this, a State Officer will be on all bank accounts.

Nomination of Officers: The following members were nominated for office and accepted: State Treasurer: **Rod Comer** and State Membership Secretary: **CJ Erhardt.** Congratulations" **Rod** and **CJ** and "Thank You" for your dedication to ABATE of Montana.

CJ wanted folks to know that this will be his last term as an Officer which in turn brought up the question of "how do we get the younger folks involved in A.B.A.T.E." We are all getting older and we need to draw the younger generation in. **Scott** asked what we can do to help. As **CJ** noted one way is through events hosted by A.B.A.T.E. and seen by the community as well as promoting A.B.A.T.E. and letting members and the public know what our objectives are: safety and awareness through motorcycle awareness programs and motorcycle rider training programs. Members do not have to own or ride a motorcycle. At your chapter meetings encourage "young folks" to participate; get the new members involved and participating; ask for their opinions and make a point of listening to them, and respecting their opinions and thoughts. Another motivator could be the fact that State Officers get mileage reimbursement for attending state meeting. Also, many Chapters will reimburse members for mileage that attend state meetings and/or other A.B.A.T.E. functions.

Another way of getting the word out is through "Business Cards." Members can hand these out to folks they meet to hopefully spark interest in joining.

Kim will print up some cards for distribution at the next meeting. The Front of the card will have A.B.A.T.E. of Montana (American Bikers Aiming Toward Education) along with the emblem. The Back of the card will list out all the Chapters and their mailing addresses. **Rod** will check the price for cards at Boss. **Kim** thinks she can produce them for cheaper.

Quorum: **Scott** asked about a quorum. What happens if there is not a quorum. In most instances an officer is given a "proxy" for the Chapter or for the Officer. This allows business to be conducted but no voting or spending of funds.

Toys for Tots: **CJ** made a motion to "donate \$100 to Glendive and Sidney (\$50 each) for the Toys for Tots on December 9, 2017." Second by **Rod**. Motion passed.

By executive order, \$100 was donated to the Road Dogs Toy Run.

CHAPTER UPDATES

Hi-Line: No Report

Lower Yellowstone Chapter: Scott reported the 2017 Toy Run will be held December 9, 2017 in Glendive. January 19, 2018 is the annual Birthday Party. This year it will be in Sidney at the Sidney Masonic Lodge. The party includes food, auction, 50/50 and meeting. The 22nd Annual ½ & 1/2 pool tournament will take 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. Dinner will be catered at \$20 a plate. They are working on prices for folks attending both the dinner and dance and also separate prices for either just the dance or just the dinner. Motels will be discounted and there is camping for \$20 a night. Folks are also working on setting up shuttles.

Houndstooth: Rich reported the 33rd Annual Road Dog Toy Run was held on December 3, 2017. Friday, the 1st was the kick off with Jam Night at the Elks Club including a live band, auction and food specials. The Bike Show will be in May, still working on the details.

Middle of Montana: No Report

Prairie Riders: David reported the B4 Chapter of the B.A.S.T.A.R.D.S. Riding Club will be holding the Miles City Bike Show April 21, 2018. The event will be held at the Omni with the funds raised going to the Erin Hope Project.

Calendar of Events: No updates at this.

Next State Meeting Location & Time: April 21, 2018 in Miles City at 11:00 a.m. at Parkers.

50/50 Drawing: \$12 total – **Rich Mundt** won and donated his share back to the General Fund.

Meeting Adjournment: **Scott** made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by **Tish**. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 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.