



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

STATE MEETING MINUTES

Saturday December 1, 2018
Plaza Arcade Bar and Grill
Billings, MT

1:00 p.m

Special Topic: Terry Funk, a coach for Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety, gave a great talk on the Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety as well as details on becoming a Rider Coach. Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety (MMRS) became Montana's official motorcycle training school in 1989 as a part of the Montana Office of Public Instruction in Helena. Later it was relocated to Havre, Montana as part of Montana State University-Northern. MMRS provides motorcycle training courses throughout the state and offer the Basic RiderCourse, Basic RiderCourse 2 and Advanced RiderCourse. Classes are offered from April – September, with registration beginning around March 1st. The curriculum is constantly changing with the coach's goal to instruct a student how to ride, work on techniques and progress as a rider.

Terry presented stats showing the number of riders trained from 2014 (1,022) through the present year of 2018 (815) has decreased. Interestingly enough the demand for training is still there but there just are not enough coaches to handle the classes required to meet the demand. Currently MMRS has only 44 certified coaches. The largest age range for riders are women between 30-40 years of age.

Rider Coach: Terry also talked about how a person can become a Rider Coach. To be a certified coach you must complete a ten day training course. The courses are now held in Havre with dates of May 12-20 and June 16-24 for 2019. The advantage of holding the training in Havre is you will not have to pay for motels as the dorms are available for use. You are responsible for your own meals as well as getting to the training. Once you are certified you will be reimbursed for meals. The RCP instructors training the new instructors are reimbursed state per diem (\$23/day) as well as state mileage of fifty-one cents (.51) per mile. Funding for the training comes from licensing motorcycles, the endorsement fee.

Incentives to being a Rider Coach include the satisfaction of teaching and seeing a student learn and progress as well as getting paid \$300 for the weekend of training.

Regular Meeting:

State Meeting Opening: Call to order by Coordinator, **Gary Schiller** at: 2:00 PM

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

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

Quorum Present

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence for our lost and downed brothers and sisters.

Introduction of Officers and Audience: **Gary Schiller**, State Coordinator, **Rod Comer**, State Treasurer, **CJ Erhardt**, State Membership Secretary, **Jean Schiller**, State Secretary. Chapter Representatives: **Lower Yellowstone:** Kristin Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Erin Lambert, Kim Rhodes, Mike Rhodes; **Prairie Riders:** Eric Oster; **Houndstooth:** Rich "Peanut" Mundt; **Guests:** Terrance Funk and Lee Wheatly.

Secretary's Report: The September 22, 2018 minutes were accepted as is with no corrections. Motion made to accept by **Rod Comer**, second by **Kristin Kennedy**. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: **Rod Comer** gave the following information as of December 1, 2018:

General Fund: Balance of \$14,069.26 + Savings of \$26.84

Education Fund: Balance of \$2,417.19

Motion made to accept by **Paul Kennedy**, second by **Gary Schiller**. Motion passed.

Membership Report: Given by **CJ Erhardt**, State Membership Secretary. We have 274 **current members** as of 12/01/2018. Current Chapter Memberships are:

Hi-Line: 6 Members

Houndstooth: 18 Members

Lower Yellowstone: 244 Members

Prairie Riders: 3 Members

State: 3 Members

Note: **CJ** wanted to thank the Hi-Line Chapter for setting up the meeting in Havre and hosting a fantastic lunch. He also reminded folks that the number of members reported does not always reflect the Chapter's number as there is a timing issue between his receipt of membership forms and the Chapter's receipt and submission. Motion made to accept by **Gary Schiller**. Second by **Rod Comer**. Motion passed.

Newsletter Report: **Kristin** reported the first edition of the "BootLeg" was emailed out on November 1st. to 144 recipients. Eleven (11) emails bounced and 46 were opened. **Kristin** emailed the newsletter out again on November 2nd to 99 recipients. Of those, 4 bounced and 15 emails were opened. **Kristin** plans to have a newsletter after each State meeting so she will need any photos, chatter, etc. by the 15th. **Kristin** is doing a great job and has worked hard to get the newsletter up and going, so, on behalf of all the State Officers and members a "Big Thank You." Of course in order for the newsletter to be a success **Kristin** needs the support and assistance of the Chapters and members. The State meeting reminder was sent out on Facebook as well as email. Of the 138 recipients on the email zero bounced and 47 were opened.

MMSAC Report: No report, although **Kristin** noted that the board still has open positions for a Peace Officer and another motorcycle organization.

Products Report: **CJ** reported there is \$1,233.96 in the products account. **CJ** is working on an ABATE of Montana pin. It will be the same size and shape as the twenty-five (25) year pin and will be yellow and blue in color. **CJ** commented that he still has t-shirts, pins, patches, etc. **CJ** also reported that in 2017 he had zero dollars in sales so this year has been a good year for sales. He also said that with the purchase of State patches and pins the account will be decreasing. 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: 2:40 to 2.50

OLD BUSINESS

Website Update: **Kristin** reported the Website went live as of October. There were 39 hits in October and as of November 27, 2018 there were 87 hits, an increase of 55%.

Kristin is working on search engine keywords to increase findings when Google searched. She also noted that a user contacted her that they were not able to complete the member renewal form. She found that a page header was over the Name box and didn't allow text to be entered. This issue was resolved by adjusting the page header. Once the forms are filled out they are emailed to an email address set up by **Kristin**.

On-Line Payment Update: **Kristin** reported that the costs/fees attached to using Pay Pal for on-line memberships are 2.2% of the transaction amount so our cost would be thirty three (33) cents per \$15 transaction. The cost with a processing fee on our part would be around \$15.63; with rounding the on-line cost will be \$16. Folks choosing to pay on-line do not have to have a pay pal account they can also use a credit card. Credit cards transactions are seventeen (17) cents so again it would be around \$15.67.

Kristin also reported that if we used Square for on-line payments it would be 2.75% per transaction with no flat fees. At this time we are not interested in using the Square.

Rod and **CJ** looked into the charges, if any, for pay pal transactions to run through a bank or credit union. There are none.

A motion was made by **Kristin** to "use Pay Pal on our website to process the on-line membership forms. The on-line cost will be \$16. Renewals paid by check will remain \$15. Second by **Erin Lambert**. Motion passed.

Membership Cards: **Kim** was wondering if we should put the website address on the back of the membership cards. After discussion the following motion was made by **Kristin** "the website address and symbols for Facebook and Instagram be added to the back of the membership card." Second by **Kim Rhodes**. Motion passed.

Election of Officers: The following were elected by Executive Order and accepted: State Coordinator: **Gary Schiller**; State Deputy Coordinator: **Scott Swanson**; State Secretary: **Jean Schiller**. "Congratulation's" **Gary, Scott** and **Jean** and "Thank You" for your dedication to ABATE of Montana.

Short Break: 3:35-3:45

NEW BUSINESS

Payne West Insurance: This is due prior to March 15, 2019 so **Rod** plans to pay in January 2019.

Harley Raffle: **Kristin** brought up the idea of ABATE having a statewide raffle for a Harley Davidson motorcycle and other prizes. She has researched and talked with various HD shops (Big Sky) on this idea. According to **Kristin** they are on board and no one would have to sign up front for the bike as it would not be a specific bike but a bike of the winner's choice with a set amount of money, (\$20,000 value) and the winner paying all title and license fees. There will be no cash option allowed. **Kristin** suggested the tickets sell for \$50 each and the raffle would run from September 2019 to May 2020. Discussion followed with **Kristin** making the following motion: "ABATE of Montana have a statewide raffle for a Harley Davidson Motorcycle from September 2019 to May 2020 with proceeds of said raffle distributed to each participating Chapter's education fund calculated by percentage of tickets sold." The motion was not accepted as **CJ** would like this tabled until the next meeting.

Motorcycle License Plate: **Paul Kennedy** brought up the suggestion of ABATE of Montana creating and designing a vehicle license plate. The vehicle plate only requires completion of an application. The upfront cost would be \$4,000.00. **Paul** mentioned that if we wanted to create a motorcycle plate that would require legislative approval. Discussion followed with Paul making the following motion "ABATE of Montana create an ABATE of Montana license plate with proceeds going to the education fund of each contributing Chapter." The motion was not accepted as members wanted to table until the next meeting.

Letter of Concerns: To be better informed and understand where she can be of assistance **Kristin** had several questions concerning the State By-Laws. The questions and replies are as follows. Please note that the answers below are brief and not all inclusive; additional review and updates will be needed to be completed on the by-laws by the State Officers.

1. Article II, Section 2, sub section A - Is there a specific reason we are not having the number of meetings stated in the by-laws? **Will need to update the by-laws to reflect a realistic number of meetings to be held yearly. Many things come into play as to why the number listed is not followed (time of year, personal conflicts of Officers being able to attend, etc.)**
2. Article III, Section 1 - lists officers why don't we have nominations for all open positions in addition to the positions that are termed out (example Coordinator, Secretary, etc.) **Again will need to update the by-laws to reflect elected vs. appointed and volunteer positions**
3. Article III, Section 2, sub section B - just FYI >>> the S&A Coordinator term isn't listed **This is an appointed position so will update by-laws to break out elected vs. appointed and volunteer positions.** Mike Rhodes suggested Kristin be appointed to the S&A Coordinator since she is basically performing the duties; all were in agreement so Kristin is now the appointed S&A Coordinator.
4. Article III, Section 2, sub section D - Is there a specific reason we aren't holding the elections during the time that is specified? **Due to lack of attendance and interest in the State meetings the election process has changed. Will need to update to read**

the nominations to take place in September with elections in December and new Officers to start their term in January. Again will need to update the by-laws.

5. Article IV, Section 1, sub section D(3) - I am curious -- do we receive regular reports from the Chapters? **Currently only the H-i-Line Chapter is in compliance.**

Outside of the bylaw questions --

1. Does each chapter have their own General and Education Fund or are we all apart of one with earmarked funds for each chapter? **Each Chapter has their own General Fund and Education Fund.**
2. Do we have operating procedures on how processes are done? **No Standard Operating Procedures as such, the State meetings are under the Robert's Rules of Order except where they conflict with the by-laws; then the by-laws take precedence as do the Articles of Incorporation.**

In addition to the State updating their by-laws the Chapters are also responsible for updating their by-laws.

CHAPTER UPDATES

Hi-Line: No Report

Lower Yellowstone Chapter: **CJ** reported the toy runs in Glendive and Sidney will be held on December 8, 2018. January 19, 2019 is the annual Birthday Party. This year it will be in Glendive at the Legion. The party includes food, auction, 50/50 and meeting. April 27, 2019 is the Bike Show or better known as the Eastern Montana Scoot Fest.

Houndstooth: No Report

Prairie Riders: No Report.

Calendar of Events: No updates at this.

Next State Meeting Location & Time: Will be held in Lewistown on March 23, 2019 with the location to be determined.

50/50 Drawing: \$12 total – **Kim Rhodes** won \$6 with other \$6 going to the Education Fund.

Meeting Adjournment: **Jean** made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by **Gary**. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 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.