

**President –**

Our meeting on Feb. 14, 2016 was cancelled due to severe weather. We have rescheduled the meeting to Feb. 21, 2016.

**Vice President –**

I have heard why should I become or keep my ABATE membership, well, here is another reason to belong to ABATE...

**ABATE Legal Services**

Representing ABATE members for over 25 years, ABATE Legal Services is staffed by highly skilled and recognized attorneys who look out for the best interests of our members. Lead attorney Rodney Taylor has been recognized as one of Indiana's Super Lawyers year after year and is highly respected by the legal community. Don't be fooled by other law firms who claim to be qualified because they ride - trust ABATE Legal Services because they are the best. As Vice President I want to pass on to ALL of our readers to be involved and read all about ABATE LEGAL ... go to <https://www.facebook.com/ABATE.Legal/?fref=ts>

As an added benefit, ABATE members pay only 28 1/2% of total recovery and expenses, as approved by the client, consistent with and conforming to applicable state law. Other firms charge 33 1/3%, 40%, or even 50% of recovery expenses. Members are never charged for motorcycle recovery damages. A 24-hour toll-free telephone number is available to all members. Call ABATE Legal Services at 800-25-RIDER.

Now any one can report ANY road hazard on line at [www.roadhazard.org](http://www.roadhazard.org) or call 1800-254-4337 allows you to report road hazards you encounter on your travels by filling out ABATE Legal Services' simple online form. Put the authorities on notice and save innocent lives.

One-year single membership is only \$25 | One-year couple membership is only \$45

Join ABATE today.

If you are interested in helping a DOWN RIDER and being on the Down Rider call list. Make a call to "Dwayne Rude dog" Rudolph at 217 622-9275. We can never have too many on Down Riders List.

Glenn Brunson Vice President. / Webmaster of Liberty ABATE.

**Legislative –**

March 3, 2016 State ABATE Legislative Day

Starting place:

State House Inn 101 E. Adams Springfield, Illinois (217) 528-5100 (Governor's Ball Room)

Starting time: 9:00 A.M. Coffee and Rolls

Purpose:

Meet your legislators and other elected officials.

Explain motorcycling issues to our representatives.

Learn the legislative process.

Debriefing: 3 P.M. at State House Inn

(Governors Ball Room) Reception: 5 P.M. in the Governor's Ball Room at State House Inn ABATE of Illinois, Inc. 311 E. Main St. #418 Galesburg, Il. 61401 [www.abate-il.org](http://www.abate-il.org) 1-800-87-ABATE

Highlights from State Seminar by Joel Wannemacher State board/legislative officer

We had very good representation at State this year with five officers from Liberty attending. Thanks to Glenn and Bonnie Brunson and Gary Reynolds for accompanying Carol and I to the seminar. Much was learned at the various breakout sessions, with topics such as How to talk to your legislators, Duties of ABATE officers and How to run a successful chapter, to name only a few. The two PAC (political action committee) auctions were very well attended with many great items up for bid. Your donations to both Abatepac and Fedpac were used to bid on items at the auctions, which are then brought back to the chapter, where they are used at our own anniversary party to put on

the live and silent auction, thereby raising money for both the chapter and the two PAC's. Of the \$1000.00 donated by Liberty to the PACS, we received \$536.00 of it back at our auctions, a win-win for everyone!

Saturday we had two of Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood (R)(18th) and Mike Bost (R)(12th) in attendance and one State Senator Andy Manar (D)(48th). They all spoke and took questions from the audience. Here are a few of the highlights-

Congressman LaHood started out with saying that he was happy to be a friend of ABATE. He also spoke on the importance of staying engaged with our local representatives and to keeping up with motorcycle advocacy and issues. An issue that was raised was motorcycle profiling. There is an ongoing issue in several southwestern states with motorcycles being stopped because of what the riders are wearing. Apparently this is a Justice Department program that is an agenda item from the Obama Administration. The Congressman was looking at ways of defunding the program with legislation being worked on to accomplishing this. On the ethanol front he stated that E-15 testing was in the works and if funding becomes available testing would begin probably within a year. He also stated his supported for prohibiting funding of motorcycle only checkpoints.

Congressman Mike Bost spoke next and began by saying he was in total agreement with all of Congressman LaHood's comments. He stated that he works with many groups but ABATE is like coming home. He stated that we are a unique group, we enjoy our freedoms and the hard work that goes with keeping them, and we understand the issues facing motorcycles. He touched also on the motorcycle profiling issue. He stated that in his view this is another overreach by the federal government in violation of the 10th Amendment and interferes with the rights of the States to govern. Wearing colors is a matter of Free Speech, which is

guaranteed by the First Amendment and no amendment is more important than any other. He was also supportive of defunding the motorcycle profiling program.

Illinois Senator Andy Manar started out with a story on his experiences with motorcycles at family day held at the Ironsleds M/C clubhouse in Nilwood and how it was a positive experience for his family and understanding of bikers. He sees his job as representing all citizens who reside in his district. ABATE is well respected in the Legislature and we help Legislators do a better job. He stated that we are the ones who own the government-through taxes paid and representatives elected. He stated that we should expect good things from government. He also said that fees and taxes that are collected should be used for the purposes intended, not swept into the general fund to shore up the budget.

Cycle Rider Training Program-in 2015 there were 146 motorcycle fatalities, an increase from the 118 from 2014. This highlights the importance of motorcycle training programs. Last year 1600 training classes were held with 16,134 participants. The DOT has come to agreements with the university's that administer the program and they have agreed to cover the 5.3 million dollars, which had been in limbo because of no state budget. It was also stated that instructors were needed and the curriculum was being updated with an online classroom component so the classes can concentrate more on building rider skills.

The Seminar is a great way to meet other chapters and members and see how things are done at the state level. It also highlights how important the local chapters are in supporting efforts at the state level, meeting local government reps and keeping engaged. This is not an officers only event, all ABATE members are welcome to attend. Along with classes we still find time to have some fun, the hospitality room is always full, the beverages and snacks provided are always a big hit, providing a

relaxing atmosphere to mingle and meet other ABATE members.

**Anniversary Raffle Winners –**

1st Place ticket No. 00162. belonged to Dump, Tim Bickers and Glenn Jeffry split of \$700.00.

2nd Place ticket No 00455 belonged to Andy Showalter, who donated the winnings of \$200.00 back to the cause "Toys for Tots".

3rd Place ticket No. 00121 was Michael (Griff) Brunson Visa card of \$100.00.

Winner of the so called WAGON OF FUN (booze wagon) was Maria and Rey Vega.

50/50 winner went to Kelly...

Thanks to ALL who participated in our Raffle ticket sales and those who purchased a card for the Wagon of fun.

Huge thanks to ALL who donated items and to EVERYONE that came to the Local on 45 as we thank again Val and Scott Tucker for the use of their business, The Local on 45!

Thanks to all who Participated. and helped make Liberty Abate's 29th Anniversary party a success.

From YOUR 29TH Anniversary committee, Cat, Bonnie, and Glenn. WE THANK YOU.

**Activities –**

Feb 21st 2016 - State ABATE Swap meet, State Fairgrounds



**WITT'S**  
smokehouse

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Make sure to check out our website. If you haven't visited the website it can be found at:

<http://libertyabate.org/>

We can be found on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/liberty.abate>

**Merchandise-**

Hoodies	\$25
Long Sleeve Shirts	\$20
Sleeveless Shirts	\$15
Safety Green Shirts	\$13
2015 Anniv. Party Long Sleeves	\$10
2015 Anniv. Party Short Sleeves	\$10
2014 Anniv. Party Shirt	\$5
Ladies of Liberty Shirts	\$10
Fleece Headbands	\$8
Patches	\$3
Koozies	\$2
Yard Sign	\$5



**They Say It Is Your Birthday.....**

Pam Ferguson	3/1
Chris Lindsay	3/1
Nicole Scott	3/5
Amy Helton	3/9
Dwight Fitt	3/12
Michael Edwards	3/14
Bridget Adamson	3/22
Gary Reynolds	3/24
Melody Colbert	3/25

**Memberships due in March-**

- Robert Bacon
- Joy Bacon
- Mark Esarey
- Dwight Fitt
- Loretta Lowe

If you have an email address please let me know at [onfire@consolidated.net](mailto:onfire@consolidated.net) so I may email the newsletter to you. Let me know if

there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter or anything you need posted.

**ADVERTISEMENTS**

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**NEXT MEETING**

**Feb. 21, 2016 at The Local on 45 in Mattoon, IL. Officers meet at 1 PM and chapter meeting at 1:30 PM.**  
**March 13, 2016 at The Local on 45 in Mattoon, IL.**



**Chris Robertson**  
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 12 W Vine Ave  
 Charleston, IL 61920  
 www.car99r.com

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Scott & Val 217-273-1084  
 Like us on Facebook at local on 45

Located on North Rte. 45 Mattoon, IL