



TEXAS TIDBITS

TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC

Edition II, Volume III

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Upcoming Events

STATE:

- **07/13/19** MEETING, 1 pm
VFW Post 6111, Arlington
- **9/6-9/8/19** [State Rally](#)
General Member Meeting
Dad's Place -Bells, TX
- **11/02/19** MEETING, 1 pm
Mr. Porky's, Denton

ARLINGTON:

- **3rd Sunday at 12 noon**
VFW Post 6111
1200 W Harris Street
Arlington 76018
- **06/29/19** [2nd Fun Run](#)
- **11/17/19** [Bikers Giving Back](#)

DENTON:

- **4th Sunday at 2:00 pm**
Mr. Porky's
8430 W University Drive
Denton 76207
- **6/7-6/9/19** [NotRot Rally](#)
- **09/14/19** [Teddy Bear Run](#)
- **10/26/19** [Dinner Run](#)
- **11/16/19** [Toy Run](#)
- **12/14/19** [Christmas Party](#)

LAKE CITIES:

- **2nd Sunday at 1:00 pm**
VFW Post 10460
501 Thompson Drive
Lake Dallas 75065

TEXOMA:

- **3rd Sunday at 1:00 pm**
American Legion Post 62
419 Crawford Street
Denison 75020
- **04/06/19** [Chili Cook-Off](#)
- **05/25/19** Cooking at
Sherman Harley-Davidson
- **6/21-6/23** [Old Fashion Rally](#)
- **Oct (TBD)** [Real Fun Poker Run](#)
- **Nov (TBD)** [Freedom Run](#)
- **Dec (TBD)** [Christmas Party](#)

current topics >>>

Let's Talk Growth... by: Nasty, Asst. Coordinator, Arlington Chapter

In this instance, it's about the growth of our organization; statewide and local chapters.

In 1989, when we separated from our former group, The Association of Independent Motorcyclists, three of us were given the then current membership list. There were a little over seven thousand names. After weeding out the expired, deceased, and those that moved away, the group had around 6,850 members.

That group blanketed our entire state. We had a list and that was it. Arlington was the first to separate. At that time, due to the previous management and its desire to expand into other areas, the other existing chapters were left essentially in limbo. So, it was up to the three of us, with the list, to reach out to them and attempt to bring them into the fold. It was not at all easy in some of those negotiations. But, with a little horse trading, it got done. There were seven chapters.

That's when rebuilding began. We formed the organization you are a part of now. Great on paper, but we had no money, none! Luckily, some chapters had retained a few funds, others, like mine, took donations to get started. Locally, things would get back to their normal levels. However, in those negotiations, and subsequent reorganization, the State's only income was (1) membership fees, (2) State events, the annual State Rally, and lastly, (3) participation in extra organizational work, among them the Easy Rider Rodeos and Tattoo Expo. So, the first couple of months it was the generosity of the local chapters and their work in retaining and signing new members that was essential in gaining monetary growth. To me, as the State Coordinator, and the Board, it was vital to concentrate on what we will call the **M&M's**. That stands for **M**embership and **M**oney. Those are the most important ingredients to a successful and thriving organization such as ours.

Let's explore this. Once again, we start at the local level. How should our current "management team", Officers, stabilize and increase membership and visibility? First off, tighten the ship! It's up to active and committed members to step up as leaders. It's up to other active members to be supportive and advise those leaders. After that, a current assessment of the Chapter and its local surroundings should begin. The information this provides is invaluable. Lastly, devise and execute a plan. In order to expand, let us remember the **M&M's**.

Now, it may seem that gaining membership would be the first step, but it's not. Visibility is key. It's the best way and the biggest bang for your buck. It's simple, too. By now, you should have identified the places people, who share our lifestyle, gather and do business. Target businesses owned by your current members, places they work or have a good relationship with. Easy enough. Next, target the shops, bars, restaurants, and other places you, by now, have on your list. Once that's done, you need some "stuff". Chapter or State provided information, such as an introduction of our group, what we do locally, as well as statewide, and Federally. Local is most important at this point. Where and when you gather is a must, along with our current goals and accomplishments, politically, legislatively, and charitably. Notice that last one. Although not the primary reason we exist, it's imperative that you share our civic responsibility. It opens lots of doors. Networking with other groups and entities gets you noticed, and, once again, if done right, will cost y'all little or nothing.

(continued on page 3, "Growth")

Legislative Report

by: Skee Dodson, State Legislative Officer, Texas Abate Confederation, Inc.

So which motorcycle related house bills are invariably heading for the legislative graveyard, as of May 7, 2019? Let's see..... we have HB4265 (a dead red bill); HB1530 (would move rider training responsibility from DPS to TDLR, and would also create a much-needed advisory board) is not going to advance; HB1270 (lane sharing) just ran out of time; and good riddance to D-107 (Neave) HB748, which will finally be put to rest (whew) – Texas remains a "freedom of choice" State! None of these bills will make it to the floor for a vote. Not a chance....right?

Check out these bills, and others, here:

<https://legiscan.com/reports/zbuy2gux>



set the stage >>>

Texas voters support Senate Bill 616!



Texas SB616 passed both chambers – the House and the Senate! All that's left is for Governor Abbott to sign it. SB616 relates to the continuation and functions of the Department of Public Safety (Tx DPS) – basically, moving the administration of the mc rider training, and administering the 0501 motorcycle safety fund, to the TDLR! This move will be a "W" in our column!

SB616 includes a lot of other interesting changes, like the conditional transfer of the driver licensing program to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, the abolition of the Texas Private Security Board, the transfer of the motorcycle and off-highway vehicle operator training programs to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, and the regulation of other programs administered by the Department of Public Safety!

<https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/Actions.aspx...>

2020 Nominations

Corporation (State) Offices up for nominations in 2019: - "Election notification for open Corporation positions will be reported in the Corporation newsletter published during the year's first quarter. Nominations for open positions will be accepted from July 2019 through September 2019."

Coordinator:

1. To oversee the operations of the organization, including Corporation level meetings, events and other functions. The Coordinator is required to direct the organization and maintain organizational cohesiveness.
2. The Coordinator is responsible for public relations and may designate an official spokesperson.
3. Chair all Corporation meetings and the annual general membership meeting.
4. Make all decisions, not requiring Board approval, to ensure continuous operation of the Corporation on a daily basis. The Coordinator is not authorized to obligate corporate funds or assets, sign contracts, exempt individuals or groups from any policies in the Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws without Board approval.
5. May only vote at Corporation meetings in the event of a tie.
6. May sign Corporation checks.
7. Authorized to make expenditures benefiting the Corporation, not exceeding \$250.00 annually.
8. Any such other duties that the Corporation shall require.

Secretary:

1. Record and maintain Corporation meeting minutes, and pertinent documents.
2. Work in conjunction with the Coordinator to establish meeting agendas and provide notification for every Corporation meeting to the Board and Corporation officers.
3. Maintain a current copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
4. May sign Corporation checks.

Legislative:

1. Direct the legislative and political goals of the Corporation, both state and federal.
2. Serve as the Corporation's official representative to other Motorcycle Rights Organizations (MRO's).
3. Attend MRO seminars.
 - a. Submit articles to the Corporation newsletter on all conferences attended.
 - b. Submit expense report with receipts to the Treasurer for reimbursement.
4. Maintain communications with Chapter Legislative officers.
5. Maintain current membership for the Corporation in federal and state MRO's.

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We are endorsed by the National Condition of Motorcyclists and more than 1,500 motorcycle groups throughout the United States and Canada, and serve as legal counsel for the Confederation of Clubs.

ATTENTION TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION MEMBERS: Our nationwide network of A.J.M. attorneys handles a significant portion of their legal fees from motorcycle accident settlements back into motorcycling by being the sole financial sponsor of the National Condition of Motorcyclists.

Growth... (continued)

Fundraising activities, the life's blood of any group. It's mission is two fold; raises necessary funds and shows we can have fun! No one wants to join any group that's not having fun. So remember, FUN is the root word in FUNdraising. Doing such events correctly designed for your "market" is most important. How? That's another article.

Fun, cost-free activities are the absolute best! Just organize a ride. It's a door opener, an introduction, as it were, to what we do and who we are. Also, supporting other groups by simply showing up to their events. It doesn't have to be "official" just show support, get a couple of your friends in your chapter to ride, especially of those who support your group.

Reciprocation is always a win. These things I've outlined not only will help your bottom line, they in turn gain you membership at every turn.

Lastly, visibility is as easy as wearing your ABATE shirts, having trifolds with you, and selling yourself. YOU are the first line. There is no second chance on first impressions. Momma was right. If done right, like Mom said, "Do what ya love and the money will follow. Members too." So true.

Motorcycle Profiling

Link for Richard M. Lester: <http://onabike.com/>

Continued Momentum on H. Res. 255

Since our last update, we have added two more co-sponsors, Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) and Rep. Don Young (R-AK) to H. Res. 255. We want to thank everyone who has sent an email asking your U.S. Representative to support the anti-motorcyclist profiling resolution and encourage you to send another email to remind them that this issue is still important to you. If you want to see if your Member of Congress is a co-sponsor, you can track the bill here: www.tinyurl.com/Hres255

Top 5 States Answering the Call to Action:

New York, **Texas**, Louisiana, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Full Court Press

This week the MRF team in Washington met with 24 congressional offices to discuss motorcycle priorities with an emphasis on H. Res 255, the anti-motorcycle profiling resolution. The strategy to get this resolution passed is simple; we need to get as many co-sponsors added to the resolution as possible. A large number of co-sponsors demonstrates support for the resolution and helps let Congressional leaders know that there is broad political support for passing the resolution.

Last year, the House version of this resolution had 39 cosponsors. This year our goal is to get that number above 60. Since the resolution was introduced six weeks ago, we have garnered 22 cosponsors including seven that were added just this week. The letters sent by MRF members and our meetings on Capitol Hill are helping build momentum, but we need to keep the pressure up. The DC team will continue to meet with congressional offices and Bikers Inside the Beltway is a great opportunity for motorcyclists to educate lawmakers about this issue.

We are casting a wide net hoping to gain support from a variety of different states. Our meetings this week were with members of Congress from 21 different states. Currently, Illinois is leading the way with five co-sponsors on the resolution. We will keep you updated on our meetings and the growth of our co-sponsor list.

Be Sure to [take action](#) on H. Res. 255 today

About Motorcycle Riders Foundation

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) provides leadership at the federal level for states' motorcyclists' rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs and individual riders. The MRF is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street

ask the experts >>>

Q: Where do I send my questions?

A: news@texasabate.com

Have questions about ABATE? Or riding in Texas? Or kid-friendly events? Or which shop to take your ride to? Or "biker-friendly" establishments? Email "Ask the Experts" at news@texasabate.com or you can snail-mail to "Ask the Experts" at Texas Abate Confederation, Inc., 900 Fish Creek Drive, Arlington, TX 76018



motorcyclists. The MRF is committed to being a national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle and works in conjunction with its partners to help educate elected officials and policymakers in Washington and beyond. **All Information contained in this release is copyrighted. Reproduction permitted with attribution. Motorcycle Riders Foundation. All rights reserved. Ride With The Leaders™ by joining the MRF at <http://mrf.org> or call (202) 546-0983**

finalthoughts...

Do you know what is going on in your community? How do you find out? Volunteer. Talk to leaders in your community. What are the “hot” topics of conversation? Do your leaders roll up their sleeves and get in the trenches? Or do they like their “suit and tie” along with their corner office? Ask questions! Give them your input. Let them know where you stand on certain agendas. Will they support what you believe is important? They represent YOU! **Find out who they are...** <https://fyi.capitol.texas.gov/Home.aspx>



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www.texasabate.com/chapters

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www.tinyurl.com/tattreader

This survey will take less than five (5) minutes. Ask questions or provide suggestions. This is YOUR newsletter! Tell us what you want to see.

Contact us at news@texasabate.com

www.texasabate.com



Texas Abate Confederation, Inc.
900 Fish Creek Drive
Arlington, TX 76018

Texas Abate Confederation, Inc. is a not-for-profit, motorcycle rights organization. An alliance dedicated to the protection of the individual rights of motorcyclists through political change and awareness, charitable works, public education and the promotion of motorcycling.

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

In Hope of Promoting a Better Relationship with the Public for Motorcycle Awareness.