



# ***NEWSLETTER***

***APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2024***

## **St. Clair County Chapter**

**NEXT MEETING -- MAY 9, 2024 (7:00 p.m.)**

**Monthly Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday**

**TR'S PLACE**

**4901 Concordia Church Road  
Belleville, IL 62226**

**Follow us on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/stclaircountyabate/>



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**A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education; A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc. is organized for charitable, educational, civic, benevolent, social, and athletic purposes, including such purposes as promoting motorcycle use, acceptance, safety, and enjoyment. Said purpose includes promoting of motorcycle interests of the corporation's members and affiliates. Said corporation is further organized to undertake such interactions, including lobbying and litigation support, with various governmental bodies as may be necessary or desirable to promote the motorcycling interests of the corporation's members and affiliates.**

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## **2024 OFFICERS**

**ABATE OF Illinois, St Clair County Chapter  
P.O. Box 235, Freeburg, IL 62243**

President	Mike Gallagher	Mikeg426@yahoo.com
Vice President	Alex Cortez	Acortez_2@yahoo.com
Legislative	Mike Gallagher	Mikeg426@yahoo.com
Secretary	Michelle Hummert	michellehummert@yahoo.com
Membership	Joanne Szoke	jkszoke@gmail.com
Treasurer	Theresa Miller	tmmillie@yahoo.com
Safety & Ed.	Andy Toennies	atoennies@kirkendalldwyer.com
	Rich KinKade	Rkrkx2@gmail.com
Public Relations	Open	
SW Region	Alex Cortez	acortez_2@yahoo.com
BOD Rep.	Rich KinKade	Rkrkx2@gmail.com
Newsletter	Joanne Szoke	jkszoke@gmail.com
Activities	Alex Cortez	acortez_2@yahoo.com
Sargeant At Arms	Philip Smithe	
Chaplain	Pastor Doug White	618.593.2277

**To renew your membership: [www.abate-il.org](http://www.abate-il.org)  
It's EASY! Pay with PayPal**

**St Clair County ABATE Chapter Inc May 1990**  
**A Bonafide Civic Organization & 501(C)4 Organization**  
**A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois - St. Clair County Chapter – Monthly Meeting**

*April 11, 2024, Minutes*

**Sergeant of Arms brought the meeting to order.**

**President's Report** – Alex Cortez welcomed everyone to the meeting. There are bike raffle tickets for sale.

**Secretary's Report** – Minutes from the last meeting were on the tables. **Motion made to approve Secretary's Report. Motion approved and carried.**

**Treasurer's Report** – Beginning and ending balances in the account were discussed. **Motion made to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion approved and carried.**

**Membership Report** – The St. Clair Chapter currently has 124 members.

**Newsletter Report** – We would like to send out a newsletter prior to the May 18 ride. Please send all articles to Joanne, she is going to work on advertising to cover the cost of the newsletter. In lieu of marble books, we are going to try and get together with other Chapters and maybe do some money wheels.

**Legislative Report** – Alex discussed the helmet bill and discussed the numbers for 2022 fatalities and 7.8% of them were the case of a distracted driver.

**Public Relations Report** – Nothing to report as there is no Officer.

**Safety and Education Report** – Rich and Andy have taught or were scheduled to teach at O'Fallon, Mascoutah, Dupo, Columbia, Collinsville, Granite City and East St. Louis. They did hear back from Belleville and were too busy to teach there this semester but will get back there in the fall. They are looking for some help to teach, so if anyone is interested, reach out to either one. They are in the riding season with a lot of bikes out there. The farmers are also out on the roads so keep an eye out for them. Some roads have some deep potholes to be aware of especially at night. You can report potholes to IDOT or the county themselves where you see one. Be safe.

**Activities Report** – May 18<sup>th</sup> is the 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Free Ride, starts at noon and ends at Lucky Joes in Freeburg. Lucky Joes donated \$100 for food at the end of the ride. State Swap Meet is April 28.

**Southwest Region Report** – Nothing to report.

**Board of Directors Report** – Next meeting is April 27.

**Old Business Report** – Swap meet was cancelled. Theresa will get Mike Gallagher's signature on the March minutes so we can add new signatories to the checking account.

**New Business Report** – None to report.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

As I write this at 9:00 pm on a Friday night, my wife and three granddaughters are outside cooking smores around our fire pit. My, how times change. Nothing stays the same, or so it seems sometimes. If you read the legislative report elsewhere in this newsletter you may think otherwise. We are approaching our thirty-third anniversary in a few days. Thirty-four years ago, about a dozen guys and girls from the Belleville area were meeting with about twenty others from the Sparta area to start a new chapter in that area. We didn't have enough interested bikers from this area to start an ABATE Chapter, so we went to Sparta and pitched in with that crew to start the Backroads #32 Chapter. Approximately nine months later in May, we held our first organizational meeting at a little bar next to Scott Air Force Base called Sandy's Runway. Before the night was over, we had thirty-five members and a new ABATE Chapter without a name. They called us the St Clair County Chapter for the time being until we could decide on a name. Well, that name appealed to the majority of us, but it didn't come without a fight! Our newly elected activities officer even had a shirt made up that said "Freedom Chapter" on the back. I still have that shirt around here somewhere. I recall us meeting at The Hog Shack or The Hog Shed, I can't recall the exact name. It was a small motorcycle repair shop run by Steve Ritzheimer and David Baum over on North Belt East in Belleville. It's a sewing machine repair center now. We would use their phone and call the Illinois State Capitol to talk to our Representative and Senators and pass the phone around to everybody. At the meetings we signed postcards and talked about how to write letters and talking points when talking or writing to them. The ongoing helmet law bills were all the rage back then. To quote Yogi Berra: "It's Deja vu all over again." - Mike Gallagher

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Welcome new member John Haggerty. *5 Year Renewals:* Timothy Fiedler, Randy & Natalie Huck, John Biggins & Steve Creason. *1 Year Renewals:* Wayne Feazel, Marsha Harris, Patrick & Louise McDill, Thomas & Tonya Herrington, William & Angela Janssen. Jeffrey Otto, Alan Yung, Dave McIlravy, Michelle Hummert & Darrell Johnson. NOTE: Your address label reflects your renewal date. If you know someone interested in joining, sign them up!

## **ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Don't forget about our **33rd Anniversary Ride** on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Meet at TR's in Belleville, IL at 11am, kickstands up at 12pm. This will be a 100 plus mile FREE RIDE. We will end at Lucky Joe's in Freeburg, IL. There will be free food at the end of the ride, thanks to Randy owner of Lucky Joe's. Please come out and show your support for St. Clair County ABATE. We will be having another gun raffle this year, we will start selling tickets end of September, or being of October. More details to come at a later date.

If you can think of anything to do as a group please bring up at next meeting or email me at [acortez\\_2@yahoo.com](mailto:acortez_2@yahoo.com), with your suggestions.

**SOUTHWEST REGION REPORT** *No report.*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT**

Hello ABATE Family. There are a few things going on at the state level that you may or may not be aware of. The State had to replace the products and Bike trailers. Trailers are being configured to maximize use and storage. Chapters who sponsored the previous trailers will have their Chapter name added to the new trailers. Both trailers were funded by respective deferred accounts. The bike trailer is taller on the inside, so hopefully no more scalping of heads.

This year's State Party will be June 20-22 at the Menard County Fairgrounds, Petersburg, IL. Information can be found on the state website (ABATE of Illinois, Inc - Home (<https://abate-il.org>)).

May 5<sup>th</sup> will be the State Freedom ride up in Springfield, which is always an opportunity to speak to representatives and socialize. Meet in the IDOT Parking Lot Springfield, IL at 8am. The State recognizes representatives who support bikers' rights with a Leather Vest.

Pay attention to the email alerts, as we need you to fill out witness slips to fight for our freedom of choice when legislators try to introduce helmet bills, which take away from our "Freedom of Choice." If you are not receiving State emails please send your email address to Joanne Szoke ([jkszoke@gmail.com](mailto:jkszoke@gmail.com)) and she will send information to the state office. Legislative day was 17 April at the State Capital. Hope you were able to attend and speak to your representatives. Speaking of representatives, elections are fast approaching. Representatives will increase their social fundraising. ABATE sends chapter members to these events, which is a great opportunity to speak to representatives about motorcycle related issues. If you are interested in such events, please let Mike Gallagher ([mikeg426@yahoo.com](mailto:mikeg426@yahoo.com)) know so we can call you to attend.

One last thing, the cost of college is going up and numerous scholarships are not awarded. Did you know that both MRF and ABATE of IL have scholarships worth \$2,500 scholarships? It is too late to apply for the ABATE of IL scholarship this year. For next year, please have your child, grandchild, and/or friends write an Essay and send it to the ABATE State Office for the ABATE scholarship Before April 2025. For the MRF scholarship ages 18-30, check out the website for further details. <https://mrfae.org/young-activist-scholarship/yas-application/>

Ride Safe - v/r - Rich KinKade

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

I'm guessing everybody has heard by now that we had the first "Helmet Law Bill" legislation in a long time introduced recently. It is HB5620 Vehicle Code Motorcycle Helmets. Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Requires the operator of a motorcycle, motor driven cycle, or moped and all passengers to wear a motorcycle helmet. Defines "motorcycle helmet". It was introduced into the Rules Committee in February and on April 2nd it was moved to the Transportation Vehicles & Safety Committee. In just a few short days we generated over three-hundred witness slips opposing it. It was obvious that it was going to be a very unpopular bill to try to push in an election year. And just like that, it was sent back to rules committee, rumored to be rewritten as an 18 or 21 and under helmet bill. For now it is just sitting there in limbo. For curiosity I followed it to the rules committee to see what was going on. They have somewhere around

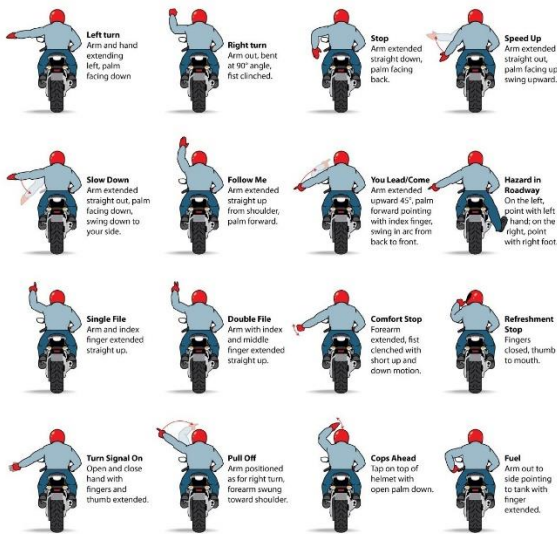
three-hundred bills sitting in that committee awaiting some type of action by the members of that committee. There is five members in that committee. It should die a long slow death, but we will keep an eye on it. Mike Gallagher

## SAFETY & ED REPORT

Rich and I have taught or were scheduled to teach at O'Fallon, Mascoutah, Dupo, Columbia, Collinsville, Granite City and East St Louis High School Drivers Education Classes. We did hear back from Belleville and were too busy to teach there this semester but will get back there in the fall. Rich and I are spread thin, and we're looking for some help to assist in reaching out to these students and teach these classes. It is a one-hour presentation in a driver's education class and is very rewarding. We're in the riding season with a lot of bikes out. The farmers are also out on the roads so keep an eye out for them as they are very unpredictable. Most farm equipment is not required to have turn signals. Some roads have some pretty deep potholes so be aware of that especially at night. You can report potholes on state routes to IDOT Headquarters switchboard at 618-346-3100. Report county and township road problems to the local authorities.

Be Safe - Andy Toennies

# MOTORCYCLE HAND SIGNALS



Note from the Editor:

Ride safe. Be aware of your surroundings. Use hand signals. Ride in staggered formation. It's better to arrive, than to arrive first or not at all. Feel the breeze. Take in the views, the flora, the fauna and as the temperatures rise, the lovely aromas of our local farms, the smell of fresh cut grass and flowers. Live each day as though there may be no tomorrow.

Most of all...*Enjoy the ride!*

Joanne



## **BIKE RAFFLE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL CHAPTER MEETINGS**

The following is a list of the EBOD email addresses:

Coordinator: [coordinator@abate-il.org](mailto:coordinator@abate-il.org)

Treasurer: [treasurer@abate-il.org](mailto:treasurer@abate-il.org)

Office Manager: [office@abate-il.org](mailto:office@abate-il.org)

Products: [products@abate-il.org](mailto:products@abate-il.org)

Bike Raffle: [bike@abate-il.org](mailto:bike@abate-il.org)

Newsletter: [newsletter@abate-il.org](mailto:newsletter@abate-il.org)

Assistant Coordinator: [assistantcoord@abate-il.org](mailto:assistantcoord@abate-il.org)

Legislative: [legislative@abate-il.org](mailto:legislative@abate-il.org)

Safety & Ed: [safety@abate-il.org](mailto:safety@abate-il.org)

Public Relations: [pr@abate-il.org](mailto:pr@abate-il.org)

Activities: [activities@abate-il.org](mailto:activities@abate-il.org)

SW Region Coordinator: [southwest@abate-il.org](mailto:southwest@abate-il.org)



# Meeting of the Minds

September 26-29, 2024

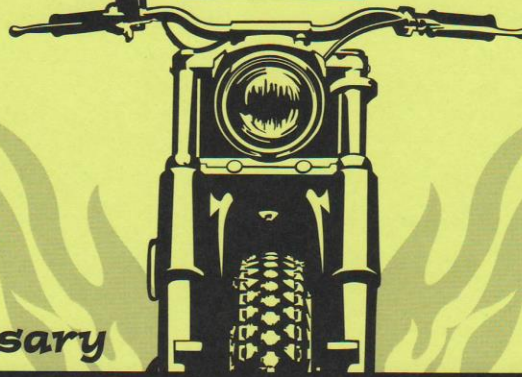
Hosted by Freedom Of Road Riders Missouri 

**SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2024  
ST LOUIS, MISSOURI**

Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, Saint Louis, MO 63134-3307  
Hotel direct line 314-429-1100. Mention Motorcycle Riders Foundation for conference room rates (deadline Sept. 4, 2024).  
Pre-registration for conference through the MRF, PO Box 9090, Peoria, IL 61612  
Pre-registration (must be received by Sept. 4, 2024): \$100.00 (current member) / \$120.00 (non-member)  
Registration rate after Sept. 4, 2024: \$110.00 (current member) / \$130.00 (non-member)  
Registration includes all workshops, workshop materials, and Saturday banquet.  
Registration questions call the MRF at 202-546-0983, or email Fred Harrell at fred@mrf.org.



# St. Clair County ABATE



*33rd Anniversary*

## FREE RIDE

### Saturday, May 18, 2024

**MEET @ TR'S PLACE 11:00 AM**

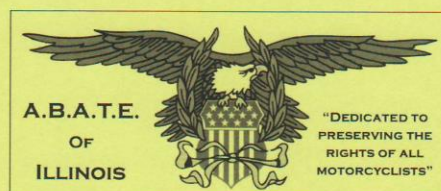
4901 CONCORDIA CHURCH ROAD • BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

**KICKSTANDS UP @ NOON, 100 + MILES**

**ENDS 5-ISH PM @ LUCKY JOE'S BAR, 102 S. RICHLAND ST., FREEBURG, IL**

**Five to Six Stops – All Motorcycle Friendly...  
We support those that support ABATE**

Ride in a group in staggered formation or we will see you at the next stop.  
This is a free, fun run, no rules or time restraints except last stop if you want free food.  
Ride safe and responsibly and enjoy your freedom that ABATE of IL has secured for us.  
**RAIN OR SHINE**, so dress accordingly. All vehicles are welcome.





**BELLEVILLE  
ENDURO TEAM**  
OFFROAD RACEWAY

**2024**  
Race Schedule

Feb. 25th So.IL HS  
March 2nd Open Ride  
TT•MX•HS•Enduro X  
March 16th TT  
April 13th-14th D17 HS  
April 27th TT  
May 18th TT  
June 1st D17 TT  
Aug. 24th TT  
Sept. 28th TT  
Oct. 19th TT  
Nov. 17th HS

**618-277-DIRT**



[BELLEVILLEENDUROTEAM.COM](http://BELLEVILLEENDUROTEAM.COM)



## **Knipp Roofing & Exteriors Inc.**

15 S. 10th St., Belleville, Illinois 62220, United States

Office: 618.233.1303

Fax: 618.234.2158

Email: [Office@Knipp-Roofing.com](mailto:Office@Knipp-Roofing.com)

## **Yellow Brick Realty & Mgmt.**

601 Freeburg Ave., Belleville, Illinois 62220, United States

Office: 618.398.2400

[www.ybrentals.com](http://www.ybrentals.com)

Email: [Joanne@ybrentals.com](mailto:Joanne@ybrentals.com)

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