

# **LIBERTY ABATE NEWS**

## **FEBRUARY 2023**

By Joel Wannemacher State Board/Legislative officer Liberty Chapter and AbatePac trustee

### **Liberty Chapter-since 1987**

It was February 17, 1987 that a group of bikers first gathered together and formed Liberty Chapter, ABATE of IL. At that time we were known as A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments. Some States ABATE organizations still use that moniker. In June of 1987, ABATE of Illinois was incorporated as A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education. This name change was seen as more appropriate for the mission of ABATE- education, of the public, by going into schools and teaching motorcycle awareness, and educating politicians on motorcycle issues and laws affecting us.

For 36 years, Liberty chapter has been fighting the good fight, and now it is time to celebrate our successes. Please join us in celebrating on February 18th at the Mattoon Moose Lodge starting at 5 pm.

From 5-7 we will be serving dinner (till it lasts) featuring fried chicken and sloppy joes with sides and a dessert. The bar will be open and will have drink specials. During this time we will be having a silent auction, so come on and check out a wide variety of items donated by local businesses and others.

About 7 pm will be the live auction, and we have some great motorcycle related items to bid on. Also available will be our main raffle, which, for only \$5 you will get a chance at 4 great prizes, a Pit Boss smoker grill, a Cuisinart 3 in one pizza oven, \$100 gift card to Morgan's Meat Market, and a 5 year ABATE membership. Come on out, only 400 tickets are available. To increase your chances, you can get 5 for \$20. And to show what can happen, at last years event James Hildebrand won both first and fourth place prizes!

New this year we will have raffle tickets available and on display a 2022 Harley Davidson Heritage Classic 114 and second prize a Honda Rancher 420. There are a total of 8 prizes to be awarded and again the tickets are only \$5 or 5 for \$20.

Other happenings at the event include a participate drawing and we will have our wagon-of-fun raffle. What could be in the wagon this year? Only by attending can you find out!

Rounding out the evenings events is music by the band 8 Up. They will start about 8 pm and will play till close. How about that for a fun filled event? And only a \$5 donation at the door for all this! But wait, there's more! Join or renew your membership at the door and get in for free! It's still only \$25 for a single membership and \$45 for a couple. How's that for a bargain?

Besides being a fun event this will help Liberty chapter to raise much needed funding for events for the whole year, along with helping support our start State organization. For instance, our events such as the Backwoods biker Bash are partially funded by our Anniversary party. Liberty also donates money each year for our two political action committees, Fedpac and ABATEpac. We have also donated to the State ABATE's various funds and projects. There are also our yearly expenses such as insurance and rents. And we have our community outreach, which included in 2022 fruit baskets for local senior centers, a scholarship, and donations to a local Christmas fund.

## **ABATE of Illinois- who are we?**

A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education ensures that the riders of motorcycles and off road riders continue to enjoy the rights and freedoms that have been long fought for in the State of Illinois. ABATE believes that Freedom of Choice is one that we can not lose and will work State and Federal legislators to ensure the continuation of those rights. ABATE will continue to ensure that motorcycles are seen as a primary source of transportation and see to it that we are included in all future transportation issues.

Right now you are saying- well that sounds nice, but what has ABATE done for me? Unless you have worked in the Springfield State House, you are probably not aware of the constant attacks on your rights to ride YOUR motorcycle Where YOU want, and how YOU want. That's what we are about, you choosing, not the government.

Here we go, let's take a look at what we have accomplished-LED lights approved, turn left when you don't get an arrow, ok. How about those license plate fees for your single axle trailers? ABATE worked to get them reduced from \$118 to \$36. Need a place to ride your ATV/dirt bike? Where you don't have to worry about a monster side by side running your kids off the trails? Next year we will have the first Illinois State riding park. All thanks to ABATE. How about those FREE riding courses that you can take to earn your motorcycle endorsement? Thank you ABATE. What organization is pushing back at those self driving cars that can't seem to see you on your bike? Again, ABATE.

Here are a few of the laws that never saw the light of day thanks to ABATE's efforts- all service work can only be done by the manufacturers dealers, limits on your pipes decibels, limits on where you can ride, mandates on what you wear, did you know your new bike has a black box that records everything? Who owns that data? Thanks to ABATE, you do. The complete list would take up pages. Pop quiz time- how many mandatory helmet laws have been introduced since the start of ABATE? Look for the answer later in this newsletter. FYI-we are not anti-helmet, only anti choice.

Please maintain your membership, keep an application with you and tell others about what we do to protect your rights, and have some fun along the way.

**Events-** February 11- BOD meeting in Springfield. 1:00 pm

February 12-Monthly meeting at the Mattoon Moose 1:30pm

February 18- 36th anniversary party Mattoon Moose 5-12 pm

March 12-Monthly meeting at the Mattoon Moose 1:30 pm

March 19- Swap meet Springfield state fairgrounds, Orr building, 8 am

For other ABATE chapter events go to [abate-il.org/events](http://abate-il.org/events)

Our website is [libertyabate.org](http://libertyabate.org). Check out our sponsor page.

ABATE membership is still only \$25, couples \$45. To join, go to [abate-il.org](http://abate-il.org). You can also renew online.

For mail- our address is Liberty ABATE PO box 1502, Mattoon IL 61938. You can also join at any event-such as our Anniversary Party, or meetings.

Answer to the pop quiz is 53. All were defeated.

**Sponsor of the Month- Harris Metals and Recycling.** The best price for all your junk. Tell em Liberty sent you!

*"Liberty, once lost, is lost forever" John Adams, 2nd U.S. President*