

February 2011
Monthly Newsletter



A Chapter of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc.
WILL COUNTY A.B.A.T.E.
A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education



**GET READY
FOR MORE
LEGISLATION**

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Will County ABATE, P.O. Box 928, Plainfield, IL 60544

www.willcountystate.org

Vice President: Vi

For our first article as President and Vice-President, President Al suggested I write a joint article as there isn't much to report on yet as the newly elected 2011 Board has been in office for 15 days. We have discussed and our members agreed that our chapter will once again proudly and prominently display the Will County Chapter's billboard "Watch for Motorcycles" sign during the month of May along I-80! That decision had to be made to ensure the location.

We do have some ideas planned which will be covered more extensively in the next issue. After both of us were on the Bylaw Committee last year with Bobbie, Maria, Billy, and Wayne, we saw the need to simplify which will give us all more time for fun.

The first order of business is to formally introduce the 2011 Will County A.B.A.T.E. Chapter Officers.

President: Al

Vice-President: Violet 'Shy Vi'

Secretary: Paul

Treasurer: Pat

Safety & Education: Mike 'Monty'

Legislative Curmudgeon: Brian

Membership: Helen

State Representative: Randy

Public Relations: Freak

Activities: Barbara Fitz

Merchandise: Sandi

Road Captain: Jim

Sgt-At-Arms: Mike Sr.

Editor: John

President Al asked and Pammy accepted to take on the responsibility of planning and coordinating our chapter's most ambitious activity, the

'Book Run'.

The next order of business is to thank the outgoing Officers for their time and commitment to our Chapter. Jay our patient past President, his lovely bride Jackie who has been Secretary for several years, Ms Brenda for the past several years as Activities Officer, and Tony for his time and service as our Road Captain. Thank you all.

While we all read in our state paper that some chapters are folding due to apathy, our chapter is still thriving. Our chapter has always been loud and some would say opinionated, unconcerned if you ride a Honda, a Harley, or a Schwinn, ride on 2 wheels or 3 or 4, whether you're a charter member of our chapter or brand-spankin' new, whether you ride your own or ride as passenger, we all are proud members of this chapter and care about what we can accomplish to educate and keep us all safe on the road. We are excited and look forward to the year. Thank you for your vote of confidence.

Until next month, don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Contact information is in this newsletter.

(Rev. Clayton performed his first official duty as an ordained clergy-man. He made Al solemnly swear to me to never get sick. ta-da.)

And yes, Al knew exactly what he was doing when he asked me to be Vice-President.

I am honored. Thank you. ~

Shy Vi



Legislative: Brian

Happy New Year,
Will County
ABATE!

I hope everyone's rested up and ready for action, because this year there's going to be a lot to keep track of. ABATE of IL Legislative Day is Wednesday March 2nd, and as usual, we'll be renting vans and going down as a group, so PLEASE make plans to go with us and talk to our legislators about the issues and bills affecting us. I can just about guarantee that now that they've placed a band-aid on the hemorrhaging fiscal situation, there'll be at least 2 helmet bills introduced by the time we go there, not to mention noise, "anti-tampering" and a few others that affect us negatively. I'll have a sign-up sheet at the February meeting, or you can call or email me if you want to go. A huge "thank you" to Doug, for getting us the big vans again for \$100 each; and Jay generously donated the mini-bike he won at Hooters & Scooters. We used it to help raise money for the trip to Springfield. These are just two examples of our members stepping up for motorcyclists' rights. Thanks a million! And a big "thanks" in advance to all of you who will get involved during the course of the year. It's

gonna take all of us!

In D.C. the GOP leadership voted down a rules amendment that would have protected the money collected for the Highway Trust Fund from being spent elsewhere. This is federal fuel tax money paid by road users for maintenance and construction of roads and infrastructure. In a move right out of the Blagojevich playbook, some House leaders want to either take part of that money for other programs, or let it sit idle. There are all kinds of variables at play here, not the least of which is Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, who was a strong supporter of ABATE when his political career depended on the voters; now that he's an appointee, evidently he doesn't need us any more--we've always known that in general, the politicians don't support us because they like us or love motorcycles, but rather because of political expediency. But LaHood is more blatant than most, a fact that I hope isn't forgotten too quickly. Anyhow.....the new Chair of the House Transportation Committee, Rep. Mica, has had a good working relationship with the MROs in his home state of Florida, and he's none too happy about possibly losing


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funding before he can even start work on the new transportation bill. This bears watching, and we'll probably need to contact the new 11th District Rep, Adam Kinzinger. This issue might tell us a bit about being able to work with him.

In one of his last acts as California's Governor, Ahnold stuck it to motorcyclists by signing SB435, a noise-limit bill aimed at motorcycles only, disguised as an emissions bill. It requires all mufflers to have an EPA stamp. You can bet

other states (especially Illinois) will follow; and even if they don't, the EPA is poised to reduce motorcycle noise to 80db. Excuse me, but I break wind louder than that. I've been saying for a couple years that the American MROs lost a golden opportunity to head off all of these bills by not supporting the Society of Automotive Engineers sound level standards and tests. Not only would it have set the limit at a much more reasonable 92db (96db at 2500 rpm), it would have been a nationwide standard, and it would have ap-

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plied to all vehicles, not just motorcycles. The AMA is still pushing for adoption of this standard, known as SAE J2825. But the MRF still refused to include it in their legislative agenda for the year, with 0% of state reps in favor, 30% opposed and 55% no opinion. NO OPINION?! If the inability to unite against this threat is an indicator, our movement is in serious trouble.

The clock is still ticking on the CPSC lead ban, and without action by the U.S. House on HR1587, it appears that the days are numbered for youth motorcycles, scooters, and ATVs--and if parents buy larger vehicles for their kids, there will no doubt be an increase in accidents and injuries, leading to age restrictions. By making motorized vehicles unavailable to young people until they've gotten into other, "safer," activities, the government will stifle interest in riding among future generations, leading to the eventual death of motorcycling--which is what the nannies have wanted all along.

One last item: Kat has graciously sent me a pair of pdf files with contact information

for all U.S. Senators and Representatives. I'm going to see if John can put these in the Legislative section of our website, so they're available quickly when we need to take action on pending bills. Thanks, Kat!

Stay aware, stay active, stay involved,

Brian,
Legislative Curmudgeon
"I never saw him (or her)" really means "I never looked for him (or her)".

Barb,
Activities

Hello to all!
I am looking forward to help make this an exciting year. if you have ideas for things to do as a chapter please let me know. This is your chapter, lets do things you want to do. Please watch the events calendar, there are quiet a few things planned already through May7th. See myself or Bobbi with any questions.

Hope to see you all at the next members night out on last Friday of the month at Zelmo's 7pm. Lets ride safe and get new members to share the passion we all to have
protect our rights.
Barb



SUNDAY - BLOODY MARY BAR
PLENTY OF BIKE PARKING
COVERED OUTDOOR SMOKING AREA
KARAOKE - EVERY WED & SAT@ 9:30PM

CHECK OUT OUR DAILY SPECIALS

STOP IN EARLY ON SATURDAY MORNINGS
WE OPEN AT 8am

DOUBLE "J" IS ON THE BOOK RUN THIS YEAR

OUTDOOR PARTIES WELCOME

MEMBER OF ABATE SINCE 2003

WWW.DOUBLEJSPO RTSBAR.COM

OPEN:
MON - THURS 10am - 2am
FRIDAY 10am - 3am
SATURDAY 8am - 3am
SUNDAY 11am - 2am



Safety & Ed:
Monty

I would like to first start off with thanking my dedicated instructors: Freak, Maria, Allison, Tony and your's truley. Without these volunteer's we wouldn't be able to teach as many kids as we do. In 2010, we did 75 presentations and taught 1765 kids. We are in 10 different High Schools. We are making a difference on the

road. To reach out to more schools and more kids, we need more volunteers to step up and volunteer their time. If you are interested in learning more about the Safety & Ed program, do not hesitate to call me or email me. We will never have too many instructors. Well gotta go now, its snowing and I need to start my motorcycle to pretend that I am riding in the sun.

Monty

Will County A.B.A.T.E. Officer's email

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Sgt. At Arms	Mike	mike@willcoabate.org
Public Relations	Freak	freak@willcoabate.org

Upcoming Events

February

25 **Members Night Out - Zelmo's 7pm**

March

2 **Board Meeting 7pm location TBD (check willcoabate.org)**

2 **Legislative Day - Springfield**

5 **South Suburban Mardi Grass 7pm Glenmakers**

9 **General Meeting at the Post 7:30pm**

13 **Triathlon - Zelmo's 11am**

25 **Members Night Out - Double J's 7pm**

April

6 **Board Meeting 7pm at the Post**

10 **General Meeting at the Post 12noon**

29 **Members Night Out West Side Tap 7pm**



Chuck Grimm (Realtor)

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Monday	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Tuesday	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Wednesday	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Thursday	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Friday	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday	CLOSED

WILL COUNTY ABATE

WINTER TRIATHLON



Let The Games Begin!
Sunday March 13
Zelmo's Full Moon Saloon
Registration 11am, Games begin 11:30

\$7 entry fee per person

Includes pool, darts and bags plus pizza

Best combined score of all three games wins!

Prize determined by number of triathletes participating.