

ABATE OF NORTH IDAHO
STATE MEETING MINUTES
JULY 1, 2007

Meeting started at 12:18. In attendance: Coordinator, Moose Wittrock, Deputy Coordinator, Chuck Gilmore, Treasurer, Debbie Harper, Membership Secretary, Pauline Durst and representatives from St. Joe Chapter, Kootenai Chapter and Clearwater Chapter, were in attendance. There were 4 other members present.

Moose opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag and Ernie gave us a prayer. Jesse Dill read the April 1st minutes. Corrections were noted on spelling and also misstatements printed in the Coordinator's report and the Treasurers report. Minutes accepted as corrected.

Coordinator Report: Written report submitted and published in its entirety;

We have a lot to celebrate. The dedication of ABATE of North Idaho members has been outstanding! Our involvement with other organizations has given all of us a stronger cohesion with our pursuit of each one's goals. Whether it is in a classroom or brain storming over a potluck at the end of a ride, we all, in one way or another are giving thanks to our freedoms.

Which brings to attention, this Country will acknowledge its' 231st Birthday in 3 more days. With this event, we all need to realize the over whelming sacrifices families, friends, neighbors and those who have allowed for us to continue our independence.

I would like those who have served or is continuing to serve, or are going to serve, to please stand. Now I ask that those who support you in anyway shape or form for that cause, to also stand.

Here we all are. I thank all of you! This is what we are all about! We are the immune system of this great country. We do make a tremendous difference. In this organization, as it is, we have a huge role in keeping this body strong.

ANI is growing stronger! Our voices are being heard. This 4th of July have us all reach out in harmony and help those enjoy our freedoms. Being Bikers we do stand out. It's gratifying to know the stereo typing of Biker's as being bad is being whittled away. We help. We care. We give without asking why.

Let us all here today and to those who are not. It's what is in our hearts that creates our success. Being an individual and your intervention in ABATE of North Idaho as a member and volunteer, brings respect, integrity, strength for everybody. I thank you for that R.I.S.E.

God Bless and Ride Safe, my brothers and sisters. Moose Wittrock

Deputy Coordinator Report: Written Report Submitted and published here

Many thanks to all members and officers of ANI for their work putting together the Spring Opener this year and making it run smoothly. Many people spent many hours in preparation for the event and many hours were worked by lots of people during the weekend AND we had a great time. The Friendship Run in Pierce is coming up in September and will need the same kind of cooperation and team work.

Treasurer Report: Written Report submitted

Balances in the State accounts were given to the attendees, with financial reports. A report was submitted on the Spring Opener. A new P.O. Box for the ANI State was rented. The new P.O. Box is: ANI, P.O. Box 2989, Coeur d'Alene, ID, 83814. Willie has also been contacted on changing this info on the website.

Membership Secretary: Pauline (due to a family emergency) showed up after reports - no report was given.

Secretary: Beth Miller is out of town and won't be back until Fall. This Board position is open and we need nominees. Debbie Harper took minutes at this meeting.

Chapter Reports:

Clearwater Chapter: Written report submitted. Clearwater has 48 paid members. They have started an internet MySpace account and have over 300 friends including ABATE Chapters from other States. They had 3 guest speakers at their Motorcycle Awareness Run in Lewiston, Joel Arnoldi, Skip Brandt and an LPD Officer Massey. They had a great time at the Spring Opener and had no accidents or breakdowns. (yeah). They are having a birthday campout on August 17th thru the 19th and everyone is welcome. The Friendship Run is on the Labor Day Weekend in September. Jesse Dill gave a short report on his attendance at the Best of the West and then stated he spoke with the officer at the Awareness Run who said the best defense in riding motorcycles was to ride with your headlights on for better visibility!

Kootenai Chapter: Written report submitted. Kootenai has 42 paid members - 9 new to ABATE. 8 members attended the Best of the West in Elko. Freedom Run was a great success in spite of negative efforts from other Chapter members. They had a good turn out of Kootenai members to work at the Spring Opener and the Awareness Run. They are working on bringing or supplying 3 and 4 wheel motorcycle safety training to North Idaho. This includes sidecars, trikes and quad cycles. Kootenai Chapter has excelled in motorcycle awareness by being involved with the public as motorcyclists. The 5th annual Bike Blessing and America's Kids Run are two examples of making large numbers of the public aware of motorcyclists. They have good attendance and lots of participation from everyone at their meetings.

St. Joe Chapter: Written report submitted. 72 new or renewed members. They are selling tickets for a Mini-Chopper Drawing to be held at their Too Broke for Sturgis Run, ticket buyers need not be present to win. The tickets are \$10.00 each and 300 tickets will be sold. Their Memory Run went well with 2 starts in conjunction with Hells Canyon. They met in Bovil and hung 18 names on the Memory Plaque, which was dedicated to Mopar. Anyone interested in having a plaque done can go to the ANI website for the forms for next years Run. The Chapter has donated \$100.00 to the Shasta Groene fund and \$169.00 to Humane Society. They are working on a Families Together Ride for future donations, the ride is July 14th with 2 starts, Colfax and St Maries and it ends at Bovil Days with free camping. Chapter T-Shirts may be ready for the Too Broke Run.

Newsletter Report:

Moose reported that Pauline would like to start up the State Newsletter, 4 times a year for now.

Legislative Report

Moose spoke about everyone getting involved in the HIPAA legislation. This legislation has a huge loophole that reads " While a person cannot be excluded from a plan (insurance) for engaging in certain recreational activities, benefits for a particular injury can, and in some cases, be excluded based on the source of the injury". This is a big deal and there is legislation, HR 1076, in the works to close this loophole. Get involved, call your Congressman or woman and speak your piece about this. Moose also spoke about the Motorcycle Shop legislation, where you are restricted from changing your bike or even building more than one bike in your lifetime. These are the kinds of things ABATE stands for, so please everyone get on our website look these things up, including how to contact your Congress people and Senators. Ernie stated that he learned at the Best of the West how the MRF rep, Jeff Hennie, last Spring found out about a mandatory helmet law being tacked on to another bill and single handedly contacted all 100 Senators before the vote to defeat this add on. It was defeated by only 12 votes! The response the Senate received from the people, by phone calls and emails helped this defeat. So it does work, pick up your phone or get on the website to make a difference.

Financial Report

See Treasurers Report

Website: Discussion tabled

By-Laws:

Notify Les Burton if you have a suggestion or would like to see discussion on future By Law changes or additions or if you need clarification on a particular By Law.

Safety & Education:

St. Maries area has gone to private organizations for Drivers Education and the St. Joe Chapter can't get in the door with a program. Chuck stated that Michelle has been contacted by two more schools to set up a program in their area.

Awareness Rally

Mary Burton brought up the issue of the bathrooms not being opened at the Courthouse. Discussion on renting a Porta Potty for next years event so we don't have this hassle anymore, or get in the paper for doing the deed on the grass!

Spring Opener

General consensus is we need a new place for this event. We need suggestions and people to scout the areas. (After the meeting, Ernie emailed to the different Chapters, an outline of what is needed for a place and he can be contacted if someone wants this form). Moose stated that Glen Wessel contacted Cataldo and they were not interested in having us there. Anyone with ideas and info to go with please bring to the October meeting so we can select a committee to check any new place out before the snow flies. We also discussed the need for at least 10 to 15 more radios for this event.

Friendship Run-Labor Day Weekend, in September

Pauline handed out flyers for this event. Because there was no quorum we could not approve an expenditure for Porta Potty's, but Pauline was going to make phone calls to the other 3 Chapters for a role call vote on approximately \$350.00 for this expense.

Debbie Harper passed out blank Certificates of Appreciation from the ANI board, for the Chapters to use at their events, especially the Friendship Run. These will be available upon request, they are on Debbie's computer for future use. St. Joe requested one for their Chapter, she will send to them.

Best of the West Report

No one handed in a written report but there was input from Ernie, Jesse and Dave Cazel. Three ABATE of North Idaho Chapters were represented at this event. There was discussion about the possibility of ANI sponsoring the '09 Best of the West, and information on how to do this is forthcoming to Dave who will share this at the October meeting. There were 17 states represented at the Best of the West, with about 140 people attending.

Open Forum:

Moose presented information on the upcoming AMA Conference and that Tom McLaughlin will be attending, and would like ANI to help financially. Because we have already voted on this in the past, Debbie Harper will contact Tom and find out what he needs. There was also discussion on Safety Awards that the AMA gives out annually, and some talk about who we would nominate. Clay Court and Willie Stephenson were nominated, and Pauline was to follow up on this.

Ernie Crocker presented charges against an ANI member and their Chapter, citing Conflict of Interest and conduct unbecoming of a member. The ANI board accepted the information as presented and will proceed with an investigation.

Nominations for new State Officers are open. The current Board, Moose Wittrock, Coordinator, Chuck Gilmore, Deputy Coordinator, Debbie Harper, Treasurer and Pauline Durst, Membership Secretary were nominated for their existing positions. All positions are open for nominations. Please send in your nominations to Pauline Durst at P.O. Box 1514, Orofino, Id 83544. Pauline will have the nominations and qualifications printed in the upcoming newsletter.

Next State Meeting date: October 7th and for 2008, January 6, April 6, July 6 and October 5th, same place.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15

Submitted by Debbie Harper, Treasurer