

ABATE Region 8
October 2009 Report

The Region met on Thursday, October 1 at Swamp Fox in Middleville to hold the monthly meeting. A good number of members were present and Michael Olinger welcomed everyone.

Mike talked about the January ABATE Seminar to be held in Saginaw, MI on January 8-10, 2010. He suggested that the region consider paying the membership dues of any ABATE members or prospective members that attend the conference. He and the members present thought this could be a way to create more commitment and involvement for Region 8 members. Discussion followed regarding how we could create more interest and recruit new members.

Mike suggested that anyone planning to attend the conference would need to get their hotel (Best Western) rooms reserved right away because they fill fast.

The group was asked to nominate a "MEMBER of THE YEAR" and Bob Raemer was nominated but he would not accept the nomination. Instead, he nominated Stewart Robinson for the award and the group approved it unanimously. We lost Stew to cancer this year and he will long be remembered as a man who loved to ride with Region 8. The award will be presented at the January conference.

Judy Elsey reported that the Treasury is in good standing with profits received and deposited from the April Swap Meet. The group determined the amount to send to the State at the end of the year in support of ABATE. That money will be sent in December by the Treasurer. It was discussed and agreed upon that in the future, the annual membership dues will be paid by the region for the RC, Secretary and Treasurer each year as an honorarium for the service given to the region. Additionally, the group agreed to pay the 2010 dues for Randy and Heather Egger for their help at the Pool Tournament in February.

Bob Raemer confirmed the volunteers to work security at the Swap Meet at the Delta Plex on Sunday, October 4.

Peter Walsh, Legislative Officer, reported that nothing is going to happen at the State level regarding the helmet law and motorcycle issues until the budget is approved. From the legal side, Judge Bell has made no decisions regarding ABATE versus State of Michigan. Pete gave an update on the incident in Centreville stating that the motorcyclist had received 7 helmet tickets that were dismissed but he was charged with two felonies for obstruction of justice, obstruction of arrest and 3 drug convictions. Obviously, there was more to the story than helmet tickets. Motorcycle catastrophic insurance was also discussed. Pete provided everyone with a list of the House of Reps and contact information for all four counties.

The following Region 8 Officers were elected for 2010:

- REGIONAL COORDINATOR: Scott Denny
- SECRETARY: Pete Walsh
- TREASURER: Bob Raemer

A big thanks to Mike Olinger for great work this year !

NEXT MEETING

Swamp Fox Bar on M-37 in Middleville at 7:00 PM on Sunday, November 1 and will be led by newly elected, Scott Denny.

AFTER THE MEETING INFO...

On Sunday, October 4th... Bob Raemer reports: Swap meet security came off without a hitch, although the consensus was that it was more lightly attended than in the past. "Region 8 wants to thank all those who volunteered their time to provide security at the fall swap meet. WELL DONE!!!"

On October 8th... Mike Olinger shared the opinion delivered from the bench by Oakland Circuit Court Judge Rudy Nichols affirming on appeal the decision of the 36th District Court (Southfield and Lathrup Village) dismissing the case. This opinion is important for several important reasons: It reaffirms Abate of Michigan's stance that the presence or non-presence of a DOT sticker is not relevant in determining whether or not a helmet is legal. Second,

the Circuit Court affirmed the District Court's finding that the presence or non-presence of a lining or foam, or strap requirements are not found in NHTSA's regulations as adopted by the State Police. It also give impetus to the argument that stopping a motorcyclist based upon the presence or non-presence of a DOT sticker does not give the officer probable cause.

By the time you receive this article... I am sure you will have already experienced the fall colors and have your motorcycle prepared for winter. Another safe riding season...passed!

jude

Help Wanted

ABATE Region 8 is looking for a leader to inspire and grow our membership. ABATE Region 8 covers Allegan, Barry, Kent, & Ottawa counties. Applicants must reside in Region 8. As our Regional Coordinator you would be required to hold monthly informational meetings with our region members and would report directly to the Operations Officer on the ABATE of Michigan, Inc. Board of Directors. This is an immediate opening for a motorcyclist dedicated to freedom & safety who would like to get more involved. For more information or to interview for this position, please contact Michael Olinger at 616-862-8659 or molinger51@yahoo.com

We are also looking for volunteers to help with security at the Oct. 4 DeltaPlex Grand Rapids Swap Meet. To volunteer contact Bob Raemer at 616-452-0897 or rrregr63@msn.com

To learn more about ABATE, visit our web site at abateofmichigan.org