

Long Island ABATE 1-14-20 Membership Meeting, Centereach VFW Centereach, NY

Barbeque before the meeting.

7:52 Meeting began

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence for the two Fort Bragg Paratroopers killed in Afghanistan.

Welcome members and guests.

Swearing in of Long Island ABATE 2020 Officers by Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone.

Thank you, Steve, for your words of support for Long Island ABATE.

Introduction of Long Island ABATE 2020 Officers: President - **Jim Barr**, 1st Vice President – **Mike Lauro**, 2nd Vice President – **Chris Beckhans**, Treasurer – **Bill Quinn**, Membership Secretary – **Nancy Greenseich**, Recording Secretary – **Roseann Barr**, Legislative Liaison – **Debbie Stondell**, Public Relations – **Josephine Ladouceur**, Safety Officer – **Mike Lauro**, Sergeant at Arms – **George DeMott**, Volunteer Coordinator – **Gary Hart**, Road Captain – **Joe Pizzo**, Products – **Kathy Pfeil**, Donations Coordinator – **Bill Forrester**, Chaplain – **Gerry Waldron**

The minutes for our November 2019 membership meeting were posted on the LI ABATE website.

Motion 1-2020: Motion to accept November 2019 membership meeting minutes as posted on the LI ABATE website. (Seconded) All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Detailed income and expenditures were reported

Motion 2-2020: Motion to accept treasurer's report. (Seconded) All in favor.

Old Business

LI ABATE Lottery: LI ABATE held a fundraiser based on the NYS evening daily numbers. The lottery ran from July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. 397 tickets were sold with an average payout of \$500 per month. *Thank you to **George and Debbie Stondell** for administering and managing this lottery.* The top lottery ticket sellers were: **Karen Wirth** 1st prize \$100, **Griff Wolz**, 2nd prize \$75, and **Sherril Hart** 3rd prize \$50. LI ABATE will repeat this lottery fundraiser July 2020 through December 2020.

National Motorcycle Anti-Profilng Bill: House Resolution 255 fights discrimination of motorcyclists on a national and state level. The MRF lobbied for this all through 2019. There are now 125 cosponsors nationally. The bill has the full support of **Congressman Lee Zeldin**,

whose name is on the bill. Another “call to action” went out recently via e-mail. A prewritten letter will automatically be forwarded to your congressional representative, asking them to sign on to this bill. Congressman Peter King has not yet signed on to this bill. If your congressional representative has already signed on, then a thank you letter will automatically be forwarded. *NYS had the most responders for a “call to action” in the past to get their congressional representatives to sponsor this bill.*

Veterans Appreciation Fund: The 2020 Veterans Appreciation Fund is underway with a donation jug being passed around. *Through the generosity of the motorcycle community, and our three private benefactors, LI ABATE was able to donate \$160,000 to local veteran organizations in 2019.*

Grants: In 2019, LI ABATE, with approval from the membership, decided to enlist the company *Biz.net / Charity.net* to assist us with grant applications and donation / sponsorship applications. LI ABATE has not yet paid for these services and will follow up with this in 2020.

New Business

2020 Meeting Location: Monthly membership meetings will now be held at the Centereach VFW. The rental fee for the meeting room is \$200 per month. *The Ronkonkoma Fire Department, our previous location, has scheduled EMT classes on Tuesday nights and will be renovating their building afterward. We were paying \$150 per month for the use of their meeting room.*

LI ABATE 2020 Motorcyclist Handbook: Nancy will begin working on the 2020 Motorcyclist Handbook. If anyone is interested in advertising, please let Nancy know. Advertising prices remain the same as last year, \$100 for a full-page ad and \$50 for a half-page ad. (If advertising art is needed, an additional \$25 fee will be imposed.) *A calendar of motorcycle runs / events will again be included in the centerfold.*

Open Mic Nights: Long Island ABATE and the Centereach VFW are sponsoring an “Open Mic Night” every Wednesday night from 7:00 – 9:30, in the lounge at the VFW. LI ABATE member, Loriann, from *Wildflower* and *Simple Days*, volunteered to run the Open Mic nights. There is a cash bar and food available. Come join us Wednesday nights!

Motorcycle Accident: LI ABATE member, **John “Wolfie” Filomena**, passed away on December 26th. He hit a deer on October 6th while riding his motorcycle, and never regained consciousness. LI ABATE member and **President of Elmont American Legion Riders Post 1033, Bill Stegman** was in a motorcycle accident last week. He is currently in rehab with for his injuries.

Student Veterans Association: SVA offers tuition assistance for veterans. Over 500 veterans are enrolled in Suffolk County Community College, taking 12+ credits. (If a veteran takes 12+ credits, they will also receive a housing supplement.) These veterans also coordinate fundraisers for local causes. Jim met with the **College Director of Veterans Affairs, Shannon O'Neill**, to inquire if LI ABATE could work with them. *For more information on SVA, please call (631)451-4456 or visit the Veterans Resource Center on SCCC campus.*

Officer Reports

Chris / 2nd Vice President: Chris is looking for vendors / service providers to give discounts to LI ABATE members. A list of these vendors / service providers will be included in the 2020 Motorcyclist Handbook and on the LI ABATE website.

Nancy / Membership: If you are not receiving LI ABATE newsletters or e-mails, please let Nancy know and the e-mail data base will be updated. Many e-mails are going to a SPAM / junk mail folder, so please check this folder. ***If anyone is having a problem with their membership, please let Nancy know so that it may be resolved.*** Credit is being given to those that have automatically renewed on line and have additionally paid for a membership renewal. Memberships can be renewed by mail, online or at a membership meeting. Memberships can be renewed at any time. Your current membership will be extended for one year. ***It is imperative that members renew and that we keep our membership numbers up. It is the only way we can be effective when we meet with public officials in protecting the rights and safety of motorcyclists.***

Josephine / Public Relations: Josephine is assisting Nancy with the 2020 Motorcyclist Handbook.

AD HOC Committees

Campout Committee: Last year was LI ABATE's 15th annual campout. Unfortunately, over the years, attendance has been dwindling and LI ABATE took a large financial hit due to the poor attendance. It was time to consider reorganizing or cancelling the event. A "Save the Campout" committee was formed to revitalize this event, with **Rosemary Marchlowska** at the helm. Rosemary held a Chinese Auction Fundraiser to raise money for the 2020 campout. To date, Rosemary has raised over \$2,000. Anyone with any ideas to improve the campout, please let us know.

LI ABATE Run / Event List

4/19 – Safety and Awareness Run in conjunction with **Full Throttle Magazine** and **Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone**. *All funds raised at this event will be dedicated to LI ABATE's Safety and Awareness Campaign.*

6/14 – Veterans Appreciation Run

8/29 - Motorcycle Rally / Campout

11/1 – Food and Toy Run

12/5 – Holiday Party

Motorcycle Clubs Runs / Events

Patriot Guard Riders: NOA, No One in Attendance, ceremony the second Wednesday of each month at Calverton National Cemetery. Group meets up by the restrooms at 9:30am. *Approximately 20-30 veterans are buried each month with no family in attendance. Bill encourages anyone to be a part of the flag line and honor those who served our country.*

If anyone is interested in joining the Patriot Guard Riders, go to PGRNY.org to sign up. There is no registration fee or dues. You will receive e-mails with the dates and times of PGR missions.

Sacred Thunder: 5/23 – *Lend a Helping Hand Ride* to Pinelawn Cemetery to put flags on the graves of our veterans.

Floor

Debbie / Am Vets: 2/9 – 8am to 10am Flapjack Fundraiser to support AMVETS POST 1174. 3870 Veterans Memorial Hwy., Bohemia. Tickets \$10 each. 1/25 – Calverton National Cemetery, picking up holiday wreaths. Meet 9am at section 14.

Mike / RoadCaptain.com – lists roads and scenic routes for motorcyclists. Mike also hosts **Motorcycle Mayhem Radio**. Mike encourages all motorcyclists to bring in younger riders and mentor the next generation of motorcyclists.

Bill / Internet Radio Show – *Two Plumbers Talking Shit (nothing to do with plumbing)*. Thursdays 7pm. *To find radio show, go to villageconnectionradio.com.*

50 /50: \$110 to the winner. **Dave Rogers** donated all his winnings to the 2020 Veterans Appreciation Fund. *Thank you, Dave, for your generosity.*

Motion 3-2020: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14.

