

# AMERICAN BIKERS JOURNAL

*The Motorcycle Riders Foundation Reports Returns to its Roots - American Bikers Journal*

VOL. 24, NO. 6

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

**Couldn't make it to Bloomington in September - Look inside for some highlights.**



**Start planning now for Indiana in 2020**

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Kirk Willard  
MRF President

# SOAK IT UP

I have to start this month's article with something Slider Gilmore said during his general session presentation at our recent Meeting of the Minds Conference in Minnesota, "On a motorcycle you can go fast, open your mouth, and blow your troubles out your ears."

Besides being funny and worth repeating because of the image in your head right now, it is at least slightly relevant to a philosophy I use daily in my interactions whether it be in motorcyclists' rights, in my profession, with family and friends, or the players I coach; and that is to always begin by assuming positive intent.

Very few people go out of their way to get into a rodeo or mess things up royally and when you view the situation from the standpoint of the person initially having positive intent you can get to a solution much quicker and without today's too easily hurt hind end scenarios we see all too often.

Many of you know I coach High School soccer and State League soccer back in Wisconsin and I have a three-part philosophy that I have found that quickly fixes most any unfortunate situation we put ourselves into.

**SOAK IT UP**, when a player or the team makes a mistake on the pitch you'll often hear me yelling soak it up from the touch line, it is an instant rallying cry to relax from the pressure and strongly refocus on the task at hand, blocking out all the things that don't matter right now.

Once we get back where we can handle things, I will then yell, **FIX IT**, which as you can guess is the call for action to get the match back in our control by doing the right thing with a sense of urgency.

Lastly, as an encouragement when the first two reactions of **Soak it Up** and **Fix It** are executed properly I will yell to the squad, **BE BETTER**, because we can be. Our team mantra this year has been "We don't just practice until we get it right, we practice until we can't get it wrong," so going with that I can and will expect we be better.

Imagine how much improvement we would see in motorcyclists' rights if we first assumed positive intent when things don't go perfectly, refocus on the real task at hand with **SOAK IT UP**, then urgently **FIX IT**, and simply **BE BETTER** going forward.

Try it; it delivered an undefeated season.

# MEETING OF THE MINDS

## 35TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



**Fred Harrell**  
**MRF Conference Director**

Bloomington, Minnesota. With a conference theme to Honor the Past and Protect the Future along with a commitment to 'learn from our history or be doomed to repeat it', the 35th Annual Meeting of the Minds opened with the left and right punches from MRF President, Kirk "Hardtail" Willard, as he reminded the attendees like he coaches his soccer team – "Soak it up, fix it, and be better." And 300 motorcyclists' rights advocates used the weekend to heed Willard's words as they soaked in the information from a host of presenters and 12 breakout sessions, made commitments to fix issues in their states and do a better job of promoting and protecting the rights of motorcyclists.

From the presentation of the colors to the Saturday night banquet and awards ceremony, the 35th Annual Meeting of the Minds was a non-stop event loaded with enough information to fill more than one notebook. General session presentations included a legislative update from our Washington representatives, Rocky Fox and Tiffany Cipoletti with updated information on House Resolution 255 (anti-profiling), E-15, and other items on the MRF's 2019 Legislative Agenda. Even as Fox and Cipoletti delivered their presentation, they received an update from D.C. that another member of the House of Representatives had joined the list of co-signers on H.Res. 255. The emphasis on House Resolution 255 was reinforced with a presentation on profiling and how it affects all motorcyclists.

Breakout sessions were standing room only as the presenters covered a broad and diverse selection of subjects that included SMROs & motorcycle clubs working together on shared

goals; dealing with print, electronic and social media successfully; plus membership promotion and retention.



Keeping with the theme for the event, "Honoring the Past – Protecting the Future" the MRF and MRFAE recognized two young activists for their efforts to protect the future of motorcycling: Jessica Brennan of ABATE of Wisconsin and George Guffee of Texoma ABATE. The activism and dedication to motorcyclists' rights are lessons to all of us that young motorcyclists are interested and



actively working to protect our rights.

Honoring the Past, the MRF Hall of Fame recognized the following Legacy Inductees for their contribution to motorcyclists' rights advocacy: Fredric Harrell, Simon Milward, and Rodney Roberts. Adding to the Hall of Fame inductions, the MRF welcomed the class of 2019 Freedom Fighter Inductees: Karen Bolin, Teresa Hepker, JoAnne Packard, Lee Richardson, and Jerry "JT" Thomas.

If you attended the 2019 Meeting of the Minds, then you know that ABATE of Minnesota raised the bar with a cadre of volunteers, a commitment that was evident in all quarters, and from start to finish delivered an event to be proud of.

Now is the time to make plans to attend the 2020 Meeting of the Minds as the level of expectations to be strong and focused runs high as ABATE of Indiana cranks up their efforts to host the Meeting of the Minds in Indianapolis, September 24-27, 2020.

## MEETING OF THE MINDS



Dennis Byron receiving an award on behalf of ABATE of Illinois for having the most cosponsors on H.Res. 255.



Traci Beauvridge receiving an award on behalf of NHMRO for their follow-up for cosponsors on H.Res. 255.



ABATE of South Dakota for their relationship with Senator Thune which ensured motorcycles inclusion in AV legislation.



Dave Charlebois with ABATE of Wisconsin sharing the states overall most general and sustaining membership awards with their rival neighbor ABATE of Illinois.

# CHAMPIONS OF CAPITOL HILL



***Congressman Troy Balderson represents Ohio's 12th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.***

Summertime always reminds me of one of life's greatest pleasures: the freedom and thrill of hitting the open road on my motorcycle. There's nothing quite like the feeling of the handlebars in my grip, wind hitting my cheeks, and sun warming my shoulders. It's a joy I've known since I was a teenager, and one that I share with millions of Americans across the country.

Throughout this summer, you could often find me riding my motorcycle across Central Ohio to meet with the folks I represent in Washington – many of them riders themselves. Since first being elected to Congress last year, I've gained a new appreciation for how I can advocate for our nation's community of motorcycle riders and bring awareness to issues that are often forgotten but important to us.

In fact, I made it a point that the first caucus I joined was the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus, whose mission is to improve public knowledge of motorcycle issues, promote safety on the roadways, and encourage Americans to enjoy responsible motorcycle riding. This May, in honor of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, our caucus gathered outside the steps of the U.S. Capitol with the Motorcycle Riders Foundation and National Transportation Safety Board to promote best practices for motorcycle safety in an effort to reduce the number of traffic accidents involving motorcycles. Practicing safety on the roads is an important issue for our community, which is often stereotyped as being a rough and dangerous crowd. In my decades of experience as a rider, and my new capacity as a member of Congress, I know this not to be the case.

Despite this, motorcycle riders can often be the subjects of profiling by law enforcement agencies. With the utmost respect for both parties, I'm proud to cosponsor legislation that promotes awareness of motorcycle profiling and encourages collaboration and communication between the motorcycle community and law enforcement officials to prevent instances of profiling. I believe civil discourse can lead to mutual understanding and a stronger relationship between our community and our country's brave law enforcement officials.

The Congressional Motorcycle Caucus also recently led a letter to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in support of changing the federal definition of a motorcycle to remove autocycles from the definition. This may not be the type of bipartisan congressional action that makes splashy headlines, but these issues impact our community's ability to enjoy doing what we love most: riding freely.

Sadly, seldom-discussed issues like these are the ones on which most Americans agree. As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I know this to be true. For example, we can all agree that we need to fix our nation's crumbling roads, bridges, and highways. The same goes for many of the issues impacting our nation's community of motorcycle riders.

When I met with ABATE of Ohio in Washington this spring, we didn't talk about the news of the day or any of the mudslinging that seems to take over our airwaves each day. Instead, our conversation focused on policy initiatives like the ones above. With their leadership, and the support of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, I've turned many ideas into legislative action, actively voicing support for motorcyclist safety funding and changing the definition of a motorcycle in my committee work.

While I'm proud of the work we've accomplished thus far, I know our community will face more challenges in the coming years. As technology continues to advance, new regulations and policies are sure to follow. In my roles as both a rider and a member of Congress, I will continue to advocate for our community and the issues we care about, and I encourage you to do the same. Engaging with your local, statewide, and federal lawmakers is the most effective way to have your voice heard on the issues that directly impact your life.

As the blue skies of summer begin to fade, the leaves turn their colors, and you take your last few rides of the season, I wish you all clear roads and safe travels.





# 2019 Freedom Fighter Hall of Fame Inductees

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation announces the 2019 Freedom Fighter Hall of Fame Inductees.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) is pleased to release the names of the 2019 class of Inductees to the Motorcycle Riders Foundation Freedom Fighter Hall of Fame (MRF HOF). These were presented in Bloomington, Minnesota at the annual Meeting of the Minds conference. To recognize deserving activists from the motorcyclists' rights community that have already been recognized elsewhere, the class of 2019 Legacy Inductees are:

Fredric Harrell  
Rodney Roberts  
Simon Milward

This year's MRF HOF Class of 2019 - Freedom Fighter Inductees are:

JoAnne Packard  
Karen Bolin  
Lee Richardson  
Jerry "JT" Thomas  
Teresa Hepker

Past Motorcycle Riders Foundation Hall of Fame inductees are: Keith "Bandit" Ball, Mark Buckner, Wayne Curtin, Michael "Balls" Farabaugh, "Still" Ray Fitzgerald, Richard Gray, Bob Illingworth, Nathan "Buck" Kittredge, Ed Netterberg, Sherman Packard, Todd Vandermyde, Paul Vestal, Penny Walker, Ed Youngblood and Vince Consiglio.





LEE RICHARDSON PICTURED WITH  
MRF VP JAY JACKSON



JERRY "JT" THOMAS PICTURED  
WITH MRF VP JAY JACKSON



SHERM PACKARD ACCEPTING ON  
BEHALF OF HIS LATE WIFE, JOANNE  
PACKARD, PICTURED WITH  
MRF VP JAY JACKSON

**At the 2019 Motorcycle Riders Foundation's (MRF) 35th annual Meeting of the Minds Conference held in Bloomington, Minnesota, a Legislative Strategy Session was hosted by the MRF's Legislative Committee. The purpose of the Session was to establish and prioritize the MRF's Federal Legislative Agenda for 2020. These priorities are categorized below. Note that at any time, an item may move to a different category depending on the likelihood of activity. This list should remain fluid and can be adaptable depending on the issue and political environment.**

## **2020 HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVES**

**Sustain lobbying efforts for the passage of H.Res. 255 promoting awareness of profiling of motorcyclists by encouraging collaboration and communication with the motorcycling community and law enforcement officials to prevent instances of profiling. This resolution takes the following actions:**

- Promotes increased public awareness on the issue of profiling of motorcyclists;
- Encourages collaboration and communication with the motorcycling community and law enforcement to engage in efforts to end profiling of motorcyclists; and
- Urges state law enforcement officials to include statements condemning profiling of motorcyclists in written policies and training materials.

**Advocate for targeted changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) including the following actions:**

- Support the universal availability of approved fuel blends, containing no more than 10 percent ethanol by volume;
- Promote additional research and independent studies concerning the effects of higher blends of renewal fuels on motorcycles;
- Ensure the availability of separate pumps (i.e., no blender pumps) to minimize the risk of damage to motorcycle engines where higher blend of renewable fuel blends is available
- Sustain lobbying efforts for the passage of the Consumer Protection and Fuel Transparency Act of 2019 (H.R. 1024) which requires information to be provided to the public about the risks associated with the improper use of E15 fuel in certain vehicles, engines, and equipment. This legislation:
  - Revises current EPA rule to include warning labeling requirements for fuel pumps that dispense E15;
  - Requires the EPA to create a public education campaign about the risks of unauthorized use to E 15 and the vehicles, engines and equipment prohibited from using E15;
  - Defines blender pumps and requires an additional warning label on blender pumps to warn consumers of the residual gasoline left in gasoline pump hoses from the previous individual dispensing.

**Advocate and monitor any legislation or regulations related to motorcycles concerning connected and autonomous vehicles (AV);**

- Endorse rulemaking to set new standards specific to seeing, detecting and properly reacting to motorcycles;
- Ensure motorcycles are part of all testing and development procedures;
- Promote that any AV public user advisory committees should include a representative from the motorcycle community and a motorcycle manufacturer;
- Require a public, easily accessible and searchable database where consumers can look up important safety information such as the limitations and capabilities of different products offered by AV manufacturers or service providers;
- Require all AV manufacturers must submit safety evaluation reports to detail and make public how their vehicles identify motorcycles among other road users. Manufacturers must also include human error analysis in safety reports;
- Require all AV manufacturers must report crash data reporting incidents between AVs and motorcycles just as they would incidents between AVs and other road users;
- Protect the safety of motorcycle users with any rules or standards as it relates to electronic and cybersecurity systems including the clarification of rights of data ownership of any recorded data in the context of connected and autonomous vehicles;
- Inclusion of motorcyclists' perspectives in discussions regarding the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)

Engage the EPA & Congress on any activity related to motorcycle emission regulations (RPM ACT)

Collaborate with appropriate stakeholders concerning the federal definition of a motorcycle, ensuring that crash and fatality statistics continue to be separate from other classes of vehicles including autocycles, non-motorcycle powered vehicles such as mopeds, scooters, and various cabin-based steering wheel type vehicles  
Consider limiting funding of any federal government entity with increasing involvement in advocating for a universal helmet law or similar initiatives

Continue to promote the theme of crash avoidance versus safer crashing urging NHTSA and the DOT to focus on crash prevention and rider education

Oppose any mandatory federal helmet, apparel or conspicuity standards

Pursue legislative language that any collected or available vehicle data is the property of the consumer and in which the consumer has the option to opt-out of having their personal data communicated to interested parties

Advocate and pursue legislative efforts related to the next highway bill reauthorization (expiring in 2020). Ensure the following provisions are included:

- Preserve the Motorcycle Education & Awareness Program Grant Funding (402 funds);
- Preserve the ban on federal funding for Motorcycle Only Checkpoints;
- Preserve the NHTSA Lobbying Ban and expand to other federal agencies;
- Preserve the Motorcycle Advisory Council (MAC) to advise the FHWA;
- Preserve motorcycles are not considered single-occupancy vehicles for HOV lane access;
- Oppose any motorcycling related federal blackmails or federal sanctions;
- Monitor for any action that would negatively impact motorcycles, motorcycling, and motorcyclists;
- Advocate the integration of an updated federal definition of a motorcycle;
- Advocate a mandate that autonomous vehicles must detect and respond to motorcycles;
- Advocate for expanding opportunities to address motorcyclist profiling

## 2020 MEDIUM PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

Pursue safer roadway design strategies in federal infrastructure legislation or discussions (i.e., MAC)

Oppose any motorcycling, motorcycle, or motorcyclist-based discriminatory legislation or rules proposed by the

U.S. Congress or by any governmental agency

Monitor and ensure that the term “vulnerable roadway users” does not include motorcyclists

## MONITOR

Work to discourage all forms of distracted driving

Monitor any SAE Motorcycle Roadside Sound Testing (addressed by individual states)

Continue participation in motorcycle-related activity in the European Union, United Nations, and Canada informing the membership of key developments

Continue monitoring any federal studies concerning motorcycles (i.e., Federal Crash Causation Study or MSF Naturalistic Study)

Monitor and vigorously oppose any federal standard proposing stamping and certifying of motorcycle exhaust systems

Monitor private and public organizations that oppose the legislative agenda or mission of the MRF

Monitor fair tolling concepts on federally funded roadways and projects supported by federal bonds

Monitor and support federal efforts to study and review the benefits and concerns of lane splitting and lane filtering

Monitor and respond to federal legislative or regulatory activity concerning the usage of the terms gang, club, known associate, and associate when referring to motorcyclists

Monitor and report on any litigation related to motorcycle emissions violations

Monitor any congestion tolling concerning motorcyclists by federal, state or local governmental agencies

Monitor any tariffs on imported motorcycles, parts or apparel

# MRFPAC NEWS



**Ryan Hubbard**  
**Director of MRFPAC**

Brothers and Sisters,

Some States will begin holding Primary elections at the end of this year and the General election will be held in November 2020. As more candidates begin having fundraisers, remember your MRF PAC wants to help send you to these events to discuss our issues and concerns. Donation request forms are located at <https://motorcycleridersfoundation.wildapricot.org/MRF-PAC>.

Our website also contains a descriptive document on MRF PAC, instructions on making donations, and details on how your organization can hold a fundraiser for MRF PAC. The one change I want to bring to your attention is that the MRF PAC has a new physical mailing address for anyone making donations. Please, send all donations to the following address:

MRF PAC  
P.O. Box 512  
Highland, IL 62249

If you have questions regarding MRF PAC or the distribution of funds, please contact me or anyone of the MRF PAC committee members. Additional information on Political Action Committees is available on the Federal Election Commission website at <http://www.fec.gov>.

Ride Safe – Ride Free,  
J. Ryan Hubbard  
MRF PAC Chairman  
[mrfpac@mrf.org](mailto:mrfpac@mrf.org)  
(309) 267-0606

*Contributions are only being sought from members of the MRF who are U.S. citizens, or those who have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence under applicable federal law. Foreign national contributions are prohibited. Contributions are not tax deductible. Any contribution from non-MRF members will be returned. Contributions to MRF PAC are voluntary, and you may refuse to contribute without reprisal. A copy of our report, filed with the Federal Election Commission, is (or will be) available on the FEC's website ([www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)).*



# DON'T FEAR THE CAUCUS



## Spotman

*"Free Roaming Radical"*

At this past year's Heartland STEAM, I was asked to speak at the banquet dinner. Those that know me understand I have no problems "talking" and I have a wide array of topics I can speak about on a glass of bourbon's notice.

BUT, what most folks do not know is that for the last 20 years, I have been very involved in the Iowa Caucus process -- getting elected as a delegate to county, district and state conventions in 2000 and again in 2016. In 2016 I was selected as Pella Caucus Chairman where I managed seven precinct caucuses, over 2000 folk attended (one of the largest turnouts in the state), 1776 votes were cast, and I was interviewed by the New York Times. Again in 2018 I was selected to Chair the Caucus and selected as Parliamentarian of the Marion

County Caucus. Don't know what "parliamentarian" is? Ask your kids to google it for you. I've recently accepted the position of Caucus Chair for the upcoming caucus on Feb 3, 2020.

Some of you might remember a fella named "Sputnik" from Texas. I spent many hours/days on mountain tops and in hollows all around the country, enjoying quarts of corn with my brother. I credit Sput for calming me down (should have known me 20 years ago!) and for instilling in ME the importance of "CAUCUS."

You see, in the early '90s, Texas had a motorcycle helmet law. While others were doing the "normal" things to get it repealed, Sputnik and a couple hundred warriors from the "Texas Motorcycle Rights Association" went to local precinct caucuses and got themselves elected to county/district/state conventions. And on important committees. In 1994, the Democratic Platform included a resolution that ALL Democrats in Texas work to repeal the motorcycle helmet law! You can read about it in the October 1994 edition of the AMA's American Motorcyclist. A few years later, they got rid of the helmet law!

So being I was asked to speak and wanting to present something different than my usual rants, I got to thinking...are we as motorcyclists missing an important tool in the toolbox?

The following is based on the "Republican" Iowa Caucus. I'm not sure how the Democrats in Iowa "do" their caucus. At our caucus (the first in the nation every four years), we hold a Presidential Poll -- asking our attendees to vote for the candidate they like within their/our particular political party. This is different from a "primary," where folks have all day to go to their polling places and cast a vote all day long. Caucus is held 1st Monday in February in Iowa, cold and snow. You have to WANT to be there as the vote is ONLY held once of those in attendance. But THIS is the "show" you all hear about...the "work" is about to start.

For those that don't know -- "precincts" are the same as "wards" or "townships," I'm sure everyone knows what "counties" are, "district" is the area encompassed by your US House member. Here is how the evening proceeds:

- Sign in, must be a citizen, must live in the precinct. Observers & press are given a certain area to remain in during the caucus business. A person not currently registered can register at this time WITH a valid ID. A person can switch political parties at this point and participate. After the event, they can switch back if they wish.
- Call to order, pledge, National Anthem, welcoming remarks, and introductions.
- Pass the "Lincoln bags/buckets" for money to offset the cost of caucus and add to party coffers.
- Campaign speakers (Presidential candidates/2nds/others if no candidate or 2nd...and/or others who are running for office on our ticket within our County, District, State)

Continued on pg 14

## **DON'T FEAR THE CAUCUS (CONTINUED)**

Once all speeches have concluded, each eligible voter in the caucus will be given a piece of paper to either write or mark their choice for President. After everyone has filled out their secret ballot, the votes are counted in the precinct and announced to the room. All the precincts of a county are collected by caucus leadership and then reported to the Republican Party of Iowa to tabulate the state results and then reported to the media.

- Elect permanent precinct chairs and secretaries, County Central Committee Members, Delegates, alternates, and junior delegates to County Convention
- Elect members to standing committees – Organizational, Credentials, Rules and PLATFORM committee (THIS is where YOU want to be elected to!)
- Propose and vote on resolutions/planks for County Platform

### ***THIS is where the FUN starts!***

You're sitting in your group of precinct folk, your neighbors. You can introduce ANYTHING you want as a "plank" for the platform. These are resolutions that YOU want your political party to stand for. It can be as simple as "The Republican Party supports the repeal of the motorcycle helmet law," or it can be a 200-word dissertation on why the American Flag must be respected. Once a resolution is introduced and seconded, it must be debated and a vote taken (per Robert's Rules of Order). IF you were smart and thought about this ahead of time, you got a bunch of your neighbors who agree with you to attend the caucus, 2nd and speak for your plank and by majority vote, pass your plank. If you were REALLY smart, you got friends in other precincts to introduce the same plank and pass it there.

All planks from all the precincts are then forwarded to the County Platform Committee, where likeminded planks are grouped together to be voted on at the County Convention...where everything done at the Caucus is done again. All planks forwarded by the Platform Committee are voted on by all the delegates elected to attend the County Convention. If YOU are on the Platform Committee, chances are YOU can get YOUR plank on the ballot.

If you are lucky, you get yourself elected to the Platform Committee at the District Convention, where ALL the county planks are debated and once again "mashed" together and presented to the assembled to be voted on at the District Convention.

If you really work at it, you might be elected to sit on the State Platform Committee, where the planks from all the District Conventions are again condensed and presented to the assembled to be voted on at the State Convention. AND if your plank passes, it IS a written statement of what the party faithful believe those elected should use as a roadmap for governing your State.

If you REALLY want to get into the weeds, get elected to the National Convention and work to get your plank on the National Platform! THIS was Sputnik's plan and he got enough people to buy into the concept and follow-through. This tactic along with the usual grassroots effort we're all familiar with resulted in Texas getting rid of their helmet law in 1997.

We ALL want our voices to be heard. Turnout for these caucuses and conventions is VERY low – so YOUR voice carries more weight. Also, THIS is where you can get quality one-on-one time with legislators, candidates and the powerful party elite. The person next to you in the bathroom could within a few years, be your US Senator or next Governor. You rub elbows with the folk that CAN do something about your legislative passion – whatever it might be! You can develop that "personal relationship" so many have heard me preach about for years.

Iowan's caucus every two years. We ONLY take the Presidential Poll every four years. Thus, on off Presidential years, the turnout is extremely low (in 2016, I managed 2000 guests – in 2018 I managed 70). AND we rewrite our Republican Platform every two years, so those "off" years IS the time to really make your mark and move your platform plank along easily.

Does your state political party have a caucus/convention? I don't know. Google your state and political party and find out! Ask them "how they develop the party platform"? That is where you start.

# 2019 John "Farmer" Eggers Award



*Excerpt from Kirk "Hardtail" Willard during award presentations at the 2019 Meeting of the Minds Banquet and Awards Ceremony.*

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) highest honor, the "Farmer" Award, this year goes to an individual that is the current Vice-Chairman of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation Awareness and Education Corporation since the office was created in 2014. This person has been a member of the MRF for 15 years and the American Motorcyclist Association for 20 years. He has presented numerous seminars at the MRF's Annual Meeting of the Minds over many years and was instrumental back in the days of our Best of the West Regional meetings. He has also presented at the State Motorcycle Safety Administration (SMSA) Annual Conference.

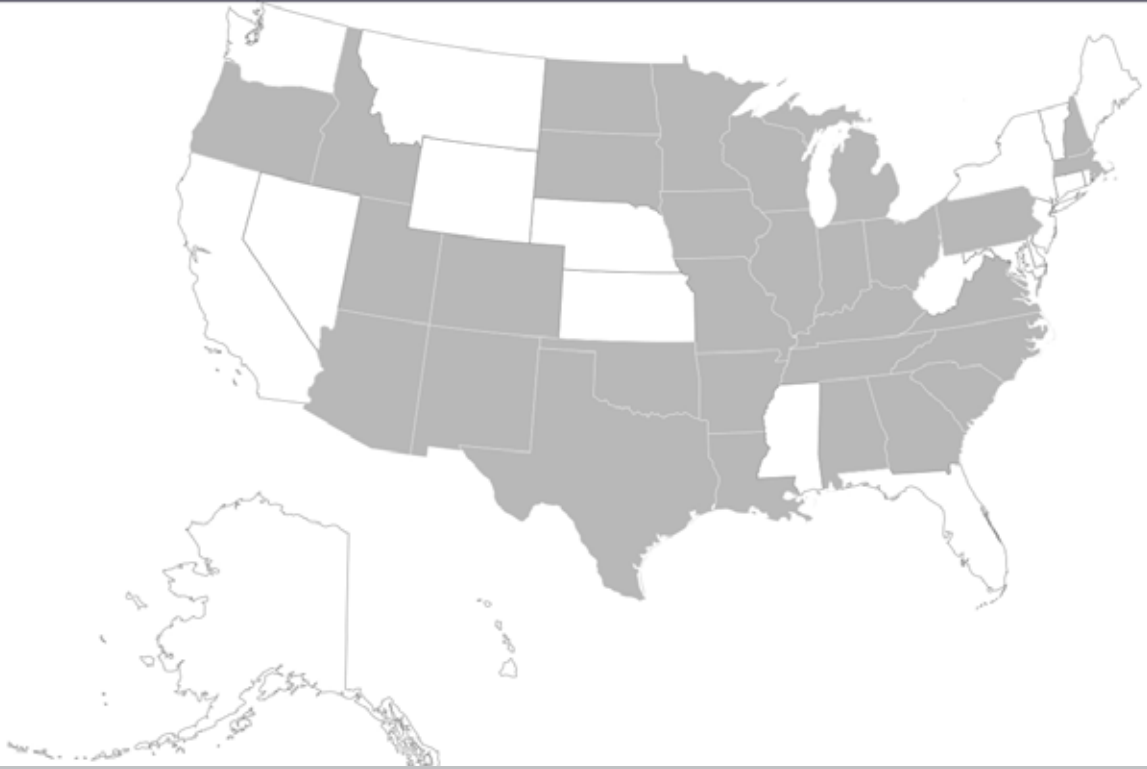
In his home state of Idaho, he has been a member of the Idaho Coalition for Motorcycle Safety (ICMS) for 22 years. He has held various positions on this organization's Board of Directors, serving as the Chairman of the Board for ten years and the ICMS Government Relations Officer for the past three years. He is also a member of other motorcyclists' rights organizations in Idaho. Since its inception in 2010, he has served on the motorcycle committee of the Idaho Transportation Department's "Toward Zero Deaths" crash reduction program. He serves on the advisory board of Idaho's STAR rider education department.

A pipefitter by trade, he is proud to act as an apprentice instructor now for over 20 years.

Two other important facts about this years' award recipient: He has distinguished himself as an expert in motorcycle crashes, having directly gathered information on hundreds of severe motorcycle crashes and breaking down his findings into actionable data. Lastly, while Chairman of ICMS he proudly carried the tradition of donating the highest amount per member of his State Motorcyclist Rights Organization to the MRF each year at the Meeting of the Minds Conference, as much as \$8.00 per member.

**It is my pleasure on behalf of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation to present this years' John "Farmer" Eggers Award to Lane Triplett of Idaho.**

# AROUND THE STATES



# MOTM SPECIAL EDITION

# Alabama

## Kris Cook

The Meeting of the Minds kicked BUTT. Thank you to all who were involved in putting it on.

We had a state meeting today and a very likable young man showed up, representing the local Law Tigers affiliate. A couple of weeks ago, when he asked to come, our State Director, Matt Schroeder, reached out to Arizona ABATE and asked what they thought about the Law Tigers lawyers. The response he got back was good.

So my question to all states is, besides recommending the Law Tigers lawyers to riders who have had accidents that were not their fault (I know Matt Danielson is going to have a response on this one), what benefits do you reap from being aligned with these guys? They indicated they could help with everything from a new pop-up to a law handbook to pamphlet printing.



In other news, I just saw on Facebook that our own Ed “Juju” Lessard rode his Harley into Fair Hope High School inside of the driver’s ed classroom when he taught the Share the Road program this week. Depressingly, when looking at a photo of the event, I also noticed that when you read the body language of the kids, it is not exactly telegraphing rapt enthusiasm. Maybe, high school kids these days are so into being cool that they can’t even appear to be interested in something.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** IN THIS SECTION, YOU WILL FIND A COMBINATION OF ARTICLE'S SUBMITTED BY MRF REPS AND THE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES FROM THE MEET THE STATE SESSION AT MEETING OF MINDS 2019 IN BLOOMINGTON, MN.



**Arizona****Dale Dedrick**

Arizona would like to thank ABATE of Minnesota and the MRF for a great MOTM 2019 experience. Our team enjoyed the hotel as well as the warm hospitality of Minnesota's freedom fighters. Also thanks to Soldiers for Jesus MC for food and support. I met some new friends and always good to see my old ones. The conference was one the best yet and the auction and Bibs/Kilts fashion show was well done and so much fun. I will work on my runway skills for next year...

We were honored to accept the MRF Award for our anti-profiling Memorial and hope to increase our memberships to the MRF this year. Arizona has some Gangland Task Force issues labeling all patch holders as criminal gang members. We are 4th in the Nation for profiling violations and are currently working with our State MROs to stop this illegal activity by law enforcement.

Stay Vigilant and Strong... we as Americans will guard and keep our Freedom. Our rights are UNDER SIEGE.

**Colorado****Dale Meade**

Colorado's next legislative session will not start up until January, but that doesn't mean our legislators aren't busy. Our ABATE State Legislative Rep has also been active. Stump has been in contact with a few Legislators regarding profiling. The biggest problem we have in CO, as with many states, is a lack of motorcyclists NOT filing reports when they've been profiled. Because of that, our Attorney General thinks there is no issue. There are a few other issues Stump has been busy with, and he has also been in contact with Sen. Court, who will once again introduce a bill regarding distracted driving and the use of a "hands-free device" while driving. Hopefully, next session that bill will get passed.

**Idaho****Duane Justus**

As your newly appointed Idaho State Representative to the MRF it is my new responsibility to write this Idaho "Around The States" column. Please wish me luck as I have a huge pair of shoes to fill, taking over from my mentor Dave Cazel.

Idaho is now signed off on H. Res 255 Anti-Profiling with our Congressman Fulcher, adding his name onto the list. We are currently working on having him join the Motorcycle Caucus as well. Thank you to both Tiffany and Rocky for doing the follow-up.

Abate of N Idaho is still actively working on getting the Distracted Driving Bill passed in the upcoming 2020 Idaho Legislative Session. This Bill is currently aimed at only handheld or portable electronic devices, headphones, texting devices and laptops. Senator Rice has taken the lead on this Bill and is presently re-writing it to help get it off the Senate floor. We have garnered the support of the Law Enforcement agencies as well as the Idaho Trucking Association. In our last session we lost by only two votes, so we are very hopeful for a better outcome going into 2020. We have teamed up with our Brothers & Sisters in the Idaho Coalition of Motorcycle Safety (ICMS) to help further this cause. We are now going into our second year on this issue and hope that we can get the Bill passed this time around!

The Idaho Star Program was running a Beta test first in Southern Idaho and later in North Idaho to test the riding skills of Intermediate Riders to offer feedback to add a skills program to their already outstanding program.

In other news coming out of the 2019 MOTM, Lane Triplett was awarded the prestigious FARMERS Award by the MRF. This is just not given out to just anyone but to an individual who has worked behind the scenes on behalf of the MRF. The only people not eligible for this award are current and past MRF Board members. Lane has been in the leadership of the ICMS as well as the MRF A & E.....and I can tell you personally that he has been a tremendous help to me in helping in my growth with ANI. Congratulations, Lane, for bringing this well-deserved award to our state of Idaho.

# AROUND THE STATES

## **Iowa**

### **Eric Ross**

Well the weather is turning colder, and I have one motorcycle winterized but I'm holding off on the other in case we have some nice weather in the forecast.

It seems as though the summer had just gotten a good start, and just like that, it was over. The older I get, the faster they go. We had a great 4th of July Freedom Rally this year, and it wasn't long ago a group of us went to Minnesota for the Meeting of the Minds. Minnesota did a great job hosting this conference, and I'd like to thank them for their hard work.

We were minus two significant people at MOTM this year, Lee and Jeff McCubbin. Jeff McCubbin passed away shortly before we left, and it left a huge hole in every single person's heart who attended that had ever met Jeff and had the pleasure to get to know him. We had a lovely service at our Freedom Park in Algona where people were able to share stories about Jeff and what he meant to them. Jeff was one of the founding members of A.B.A.T.E. of Iowa and was instrumental in starting a lot of crucial programs that are still viable today!

Soon we will be descending on Marshalltown, Iowa to attend our annual S.T.E.A.M. I always look forward to the brother and sisterhood that we share and the great breakout sessions that we can participate in. This year my assistant MRF Rep Victor Rodriguez is in charge of setting up and orchestrating this year's conference.

## **Indiana**

### **Roberta Meyer**

First off, a big THANK YOU to ABATE of Minnesota for hosting a great Meeting of the Minds. Great breakout sessions and a great banquet. It seemed to go really smoothly. I did so enjoy seeing my MRF friends there. You all made me feel very welcome. I am always overwhelmed by all of the talent and dedication of the members there. It makes me humble. You all are so dedicated to the Freedom of Motorcyclists. It was great renewal of the fighting spirit and "the fire in our belly". I hope I can honor the job I have ahead of me.

The job I speak of is to bring in new MRF members. It is time to start revisiting meetings and reminding the motorcyclists across America that their freedoms are under attack. It is so easy for us to just head to the easy chair after a good ride and not think about what is going on with the "outside world". It is time to start reminding riders that there are people in America that are fighting for their rights even if they do not support them. There are people that are busy lobbying at state and federal levels for all things motorcycle. Most riders not involved in an SMRO are not even aware that they are being protected. Although you are not in it for the recognition, it would be nice to be supported by your fellow motorcyclists.

So, hopefully after this pep talk (aimed mainly at myself) we can start to bring in members old and new. Be ready to take that extra step and ask someone to join the MRF and your SMRO. Carry membership applications with you always and take that step to talk to others.

Be looking forward to the Meeting of the Minds 2020. It will be hosted by ABATE of Indiana in Indianapolis. Plans are already underway and we are dreaming up some major good times for you all!

Looking forward to seeing you all then if not before.

## Louisiana Brick Lindsey



The 28th Annual Mid-South M.I.L.E. Oct 25-27, 2019, is behind us and what a great event. ABATE of Louisiana, Inc. is proud to have hosted this event in Shreveport, LA. We had several

break-out sessions that covered a variety of motorcycle-related topics from Sharing the Road with motorcycles to Accident Scene Management. We were happy to have Tiffani Cipoletti from the MRF (Motorcycle Riders Foundation) attend and give an update on the federal motorcycle legislation in D.C. Our guest speaker for the evening banquet was Louisiana State Representative Dodie Horton (District 9), who expressed her appreciation for our organization.

'I was both humbled and honored to have been given the opportunity to be with you all Saturday evening! Such a great group of Patriots who love our Country/ each other! The motorcycle family is unique, and I am so blessed to be a member.

I look forward to working alongside of you in order to bring awareness to the dangers of distracted driving and so much more! God Bless you all'



### Louisiana State Rep Dodie Horton

We had nearly 300 guests in attendance. For the first time MC's, RC's, MA's, LEMC's, Politician's, and MRO's from 6 different states broke bread in friendship and comradery in support of motorcycle rights.

Our special guests from Belgium, Bart Cocquyt and Veerle Geirnaert gave updates on motorcycle legislation in Europe.



We couldn't do these types of things without people and local businesses helping us. I want to take a moment to say thank you to a few of those individuals and to publicly recognize the businesses that stepped up to help us make this a successful event. Please keep in mind that there are several individuals from ABATE organizations in the 6-member states that work tirelessly behind the scenes and 40+ members of the MILE Committee that help make this happen. This was the first time in the 28-year history that this event was held in our state.

LOCAL BUSINESSES and INDIVIDUALS who helped make this possible:

Shreveport Cycles, Jim Snyder

3-State Harley Davidson, Ronnie Dees

FSS, Keith Bonham

Bayou Thunder Saloon, Alan and Melinda Purdue

Jeff G. Watson Foundation, Harry and Becky Watson

A.B.A.T.E. of Louisiana, Inc.

The location for the 29th Annual has been set in the Ft. Worth, Texas area. More information to be announced after the February 2020 Planning meeting. Follow us on Facebook or our website @

[www.midsouthmile.org](http://www.midsouthmile.org)

Love, Loyalty and Respect, Brick

## **Michigan** **Tom "Jinx" Rahn**

Start by saying the Meeting of the Minds was a great success!

Thursday was the MRF board meeting followed by meet the board/meet the states. Reports were given from people representing states that were there as to what is going on in their areas. Vince Consiglio and I are right now working to find out what happened to Michigan's NHTSA federal funding that the state of Michigan didn't receive. The biggest thing going on in our fight with the state's new insurance law going to take effect July 1, 2020. We do have a bill to amend it SB528. We HAVE to get this passed because they are hurting all motorcyclists.

There is going to be a big push for membership in both the MRF and ABATE! Michigan took 1st in most signed up clubs 5yrs now! Also this year took top in regular memberships. Thanks to everyone for giving a shit!

We still need people to contact their congressman to sign on to our profiling bill! So far we have 94 co-sponsors. Keep calling the more, the better. If you haven't gone on you-tube to listen to Hollywood on Insane Throttle do so! He has some exciting things he and others talk about. He is a big promoter of MRF and ABATE.

For my Michigan people, PLEASE get on the phone and call! Everyone counts let's git'er done!

Three states that have been able to pass anti-profiling bills so far but we are aiming for nationwide.

## **Missouri** **Amy Allmon**

Greeting from the Show Me State,

The Missouri folks returned from Meeting of the Minds rejuvenated and ready to continue to our push for our helmet modification law. We have other issues and will determine our priority at our next State meeting since pre-

filing begins the first of December. Freedom of Road Riders will elect a new cabinet to take the reins in January. Look for big things in the coming year.



We have added Rep. Sam Graves to the list of cosponsors for H.Res. 255 and I am still courting Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler, but as you are most likely aware nothing is getting done in the House of Representatives these days. We are making plans for Bikers Inside the Beltway 2020 because it will be here before you know it.

I know this is a short submission, but once again the availability of time is always an issue.

## **New Hampshire** **Traci Beaurivage**

As we slowly prepare for riding season to start winding down here in NH, we are also gearing up for a battle! The 2020 Legislative session brings with it a HELMET BILL! Our "Live Free or Die" motto is being challenged and we are preparing for this fight.

Last year we sent out survey cards to all of the candidates with three questions, one being on the helmet choice. We got back quite a bit and out of the ones we got back 117 people were elected and only 12 of those said they would not support our freedom of choice. We are going to be writing letters and meeting with those candidates and the members on the Transportation Committee that do not support Freedom of Choice to plead our case.

# AROUND THE STATES



Unfortunately given the culture of things currently in our Statehouse and Senate, we are going to be in for a battle. This is only one of the bills being introduced that is stepping on our "Live Free or Die " motto, and it is very concerning to us.

New Hampshire has a long-standing history of Freedom, and we are certainly going to try and PROTECT the FREEDOM and the CHOICE that we, as motorcyclists, believe in.

On a positive note, we are moving forward with our Motorcycle Awareness Rally in May and are excited to be working with the State of NH Public Information Office, New Hampshire Automobile Dealers Association, NH State Police, NH Riders Education Program and hopefully others to hold not only an informative rally, but an entertaining one as well!

I am readying the battle weapons for our fight and will most certainly be reaching out for help!

As William Wallace once cried out, FREEDOM!!!!!!!!!!!!

## New Mexico Annette Torrez

This past weekend is one New Mexico bikers will never forget with a 50th anniversary tribute to the movie Easy Rider by the Albuquerque Film Experience. Many parts of the movie were filmed in Taos, New Mexico and also where Dennis Hopper lived and was buried. A fantastic ride 300 miles round trip from Albuquerque to Taos and back with 200 plus bikers to Dennis Hopper's grave. On Friday night was viewing of Easy Rider. Saturday was the ride and then an after-party in which the New Mexico Motorcyclist Rights Organization Biker Down program was given a check for \$2500.00, a donation to help our cause.



As a motorcyclist rights activist for 11 years, I realized profiling and discrimination and the image of a biker from 1969 still occurs today. We represent freedom.

It was an unforgettable weekend as biker.



## North Carolina Cindy Hodges

The NC legislative body is currently holding the most extended legislative session in 18 years yet has finished dealing with all things on our motorcycling agenda. We have no news to report since we left Meeting of The Minds other than there is a committee of state highway and safety officials percolating things in the realm of "all things safety & transportation," which we are keeping an eye on.

NC MRF membership numbers are dropping. The MRF has an extensive agenda for the coming year; grab your buddies and get them to join!

## South Carolina Michelle Holcomb

At the last legislative meeting, we discussed our 2020 legislative agenda. Here are our current state concerns.

1. ***Distracted driving*** - There are currently three distracted driving bills that have been introduced. ABATE of SC has not gotten behind any bill yet. We are waiting to see what the end result is after amendments. Last year's bill was amended to death, and the result was nothing like what they began with. Instead of SC legislators coming up with one combined bill they could live with, they have chosen the three different bill approach which makes it hard to single one out to vote for.

Continued on page 22

# AROUND THE STATES

## South Carolina (continued)

2. **S18 & H3300 - Interlock bill.** Here in South Carolina, a camera is required in your vehicle along with the interlock system. The problem arises when your only mode of transportation is a motorcycle because you cannot mount a camera on a motorcycle nor an interlock cannot be applied. Because of this issue, ABATE of South Carolina is requesting that motorcycles be exempt from the interlock program.

3. **H3695 - High mileage bill.** This bill would include motorcycles under the high mileage program along with other vehicles.

4. **H3788, S106 and S0117** - Felony charges and enhanced penalties for certain accidents. H3788 would be amended to read: Relating to submission to testing for alcohol or drugs, so as to provide that a person must submit to testing for alcohol or drugs if the person commits any act forbidden by law or neglects any duty imposed by law in the driving of a motor vehicle and the act or neglect proximately causes great bodily injury or death to another person. S106 Senate version. S0117 is a bill that is relating to reckless vehicular homicide. We will be watching these bills also for any negative things that could implicate motorcycles.

5. **Grass on roadways.** Seems to be a district/city issue. Most of these have ordinances that would include all debris on the roadway. Will continue to monitor issue.

6. **Motorcycle sidecar licensing.** Looking to see how other states address this.

7. **Lane splitting and filtering.** Looking at the pros and cons and how to educate the public on filtering and how they are beneficial for motorcyclists.

We are also planning our annual lobby day for January 14, 2020. A preliminary schedule of events has been compiled. Our annual Helmet Day Support Rally was held on October 5th. It was well attended. We had a police-led parade of bikes to the state capitol in Columbia. Jesse McDougal was our special speaker and gave us a great history of how this rally started. Bill Fuller, our legislative director, also spoke. The board has also been presented with our Certificate of Appreciation for their financial support of their rep and MRF.

## South Dakota

### Kelly DeVries

The first thing I would like to say is I had a great time seeing all the freedom fighters at MOTM in Minnesota, it was a great time and wanted to thank ABATE of Minnesota for the meeting.

One thing we are working on now is to get all 3 of our elected officials to sign on the motorcycle caucus, right now we have 2 out of 3. We worked very hard on our new House Rep. Dusty Johnson to see things the way we all see them. This is not only the motorcycle way, but it is also how all of us South Dakotans know the way of life. We sent many letters to Dusty asking for his help, and he responded by not only signing on to the profiling bill but also the motorcycle caucus. After Dusty did this, ABATE asked that everyone now sends Dusty a letter of thanks. We even thanked him in person with a group of people and told him if he ever needs anything, please ask and we are there.

Those states that have a hard time getting their officials on their side don't give up! Have your members write a personal letter to show him/her that you took the time to write/email. Always thank them even if they don't agree

with you or on your side. They will remember that believe it or not they do! Keep positive is the most important thing you can do. Show up at their public gathering; just being there shows and reminds them you asked them for some help.

Self-Driving Semi-trucks are knocking at the South Dakota door, and DOT is having a meeting on this October 24, 2019, I know the date is passed, but this is a topic that is coming up everywhere because of the shortage of drivers. Our meeting is going to be about convoys where the trucks follow the lead truck will be operated by the driver/ lead truck. As of now there is a driver in the following trucks, but they will not have to push the pedals. In the future there is talk that only the lead truck will need to have a driver in it. South Dakota does not allow this, and who knows what the meeting will become. There are more and more companies trying to get into the automated truck business and this should be our concern. Right now, the few that are in this market has put more into this then the Auto industry has. Trucks detect people, bikes, mopeds, and motorcycles; let's keep it that way with any new companies that are trying to cut in. This can be a problem for us, so please keep an eye on this in your state.

## **Tennessee**

### **Ed Domine**

Usually, this would be the issue where I write up a summary of how great the Meeting of the Minds was. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend this year. That's my loss, but I think it was a gain for CMT/ABATE, since we were represented there by a new face. Danny Youngs, our newly elected (as of September) Legislative Director was able to attend his first Meeting of the Minds, and based on his initial reports, it sounds like it was every bit as fantastic an experience as I had predicted.

Danny accepted an award at the Meeting of the Minds, on behalf of CMT/ABATE, for being the state with the highest percentage membership growth. Thank you to all our new MRF members and those who renewed their memberships, who raised our total and brought this honor to Tennessee. I am optimistic that this represents the beginning of an upward trend in membership for both CMT/ABATE and the MRF.

I'm writing this just a few days after a small team of us testified at a public hearing regarding a proposal for new rules affecting the Tennessee Motorcycle Rider Education Program (MREP) and the way MREP Grant Program awards grants for the MREP sites and Motorcycle Safety Awareness programs. We felt the proposed rules were unnecessarily restrictive of the grants, and that the state, and motorcyclists, will be better served by improving access to these grant funds, which are gathered from motorcyclists through their registrations and licenses. I think we made a solid argument, and are hopeful that some of our recommendations are incorporated into a revision of the proposed grant program guidelines.

*Two important dates coming up for CMT/ABATE members:*

December 8th is our last Board of Directors meeting for 2019. Before the meeting starts, we will have a calendar update – Be sure your charter representative has a list of all the events that your charter is planning for 2020. We will get them all onto a shared calendar so we can try to avoid schedule conflicts.

January 18th will be our New Year Kick-Off Party. It's a great time, and all Tennessee motorcyclists should try to be there. We are also planning a General Membership Meeting / Legislative Strategy Meeting for that same afternoon, just before the party. The floor will be open to all members to discuss their ideas for the future of CMT/ABATE. I hope to see all of you there!

# AROUND THE STATES

## Texas

### Skee Dodson

Texas is still the #2 state in the nation for reported motorcycle profiling (2018 MPP survey).

It seems like Texas has an “unbelievable” profiling incident to report on every issue, and this report is no different. It appears that the Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) wishes to jump on the Texas motorcycle profiling bandwagon by issuing this statement in their October 2019 (No 1) “General Orders 2019-2020” – further perpetuating mc profiling in Texas: “Gangs, including any motorcycle groups/units/gangs not officially affiliated with the VFW or other Veterans Service Organization, are not allowed to wear or display their vests or “colors” at any Texas VFW Post or business operation operated by, or on the behalf of the Post unless voted upon by the Post membership at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose...Specifically, any gang including a motorcycle group/unit/gang or its individual members that is identified as a 1% organization...”. From the emails that I have received from our MRF reps (and from others), I was informed that this statement appears to be issued only by the VFW in Texas (however, there may be other States). The VFW does have the right to discriminate against a group of people, at their establishment, for exercising their 1st Amendment rights; however, the VFW already has a declining membership in Texas, and to disenfranchise a large group of members for what they (or their friends) are wearing doesn’t make good business (or Constitutional) sense! Most of the VFW members I know wear vests with patches – and ride motorcycles! Many vets fought in foreign wars to preserve our rights at home, including our 1st Amendment rights – our right for freedom of expression. This statement not only affects club members, but everyone who rides (members, or not). Even our ABATE patches are no longer welcome at a Texas VFW! Texas ABATE had written a letter to the Texas Adjutant/Quartermaster asking for an explanation to their obvious profiling statement, and for their obvious disregard for our 1st Amendment Constitutional rights. So far we

have received no reply from the VFW; I will keep you informed if we get any answers.



Last report I promised a follow-up to the San Antonio “incident” on July 2nd – where the San Antonio police were writing citations to club members for wearing MC colors in public – for “disturbing the peace” by displaying their cuts in public (public display of “gang” colors). I can’t make this stuff up; read about it here: <https://www.motorcycleprofilingproject.com>. The courts already recognize that our 1st Amendment rights protect freedom of expression, and “wearing motorcycle club colors” is not reasonable suspicion of a traffic infraction or criminal activity – the minimal threshold for a seizure under the 4th Amendment. Many of us were confident that this citation would not hold up in court, and we were right – it never made it that far. On, or about, August 24th of 2019 the “disturbing the peace” case was dismissed. As defense attorney Milly Thompson stated in a letter addressed to San Antonio law enforcement: “Someone needed to explain the First Amendment to the officer that issued the citation.” The First Amendment protects our freedom to associate, regardless how unpopular it is with law enforcement. Presently, we have a federal bipartisan house resolution, H.Res. 255 that addresses motorcycle profiling – H.Res. 255, and the MRF makes it easy to take action with a link on our MRF website. We need to make sure that our members take action if they haven’t yet; send them to <https://mrf.org/federal-legislative-issues/>. The Texas Council of Clubs & Independents (COC&I) urges all bikers to report any violations and motorcycle profiling that you may encounter. Ride, Record, Report!



And finally, I was honored to attend the 35th Annual Meeting of the Minds in Bloomington, MN. What an exhaustive & productive weekend! From the opening remarks, the general session, the legislative update, the MRF Champions and Membership awards, the President's Cup award, Slider Gilmore's "Live to Ride" and Chopper Gilmore's "Brotherhood" presentations - to the 2020 strategy session, the special presentations, and the "game nite" fundraiser for the A&E; this Meeting of the Minds was one of the best that I've attended! Kudos to all of the breakout session leaders - y'all were outstanding! The two "youngsters" who received the Young Activist Awards, and all of the members who excelled in recruiting new members - y'all are awesome! The games and antics played in the hospitality room was the most fun I have had in a long time! And finally, I have to say that receiving the Thomas Payne Award was the most rewarding award that I have ever received in my life. I was not expecting any awards for



doing what you love doing; however, I am extremely grateful for everyone's encouragement that I was a worthy recipient.

The Thomas Payne quote on my plaque, says: "I offer nothing more than simple facts, plain arguments, and common sense."

## Virginia Skee Dodson

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Minds was hosted by ABATE of Minnesota and was very well planned and executed. The workshops and presentations were entertaining and informative. During the "Meet the States" portion of the weekend, we were surprised to hear about many "grass clipping" bills in numerous states. We got a double shot of practical information since not only did "Slider" Gilmore speak about living to ride, but "Chopper Charlie" Gilmore also spoke about being a better brother/sister and true friend. We heard from Vicki Ernst about the noteworthy Dial A Ride program that provides a safer alternative to having a few cold ones and then trying to ride a bike home. Dial A Ride provides transportation for the rider AND the bike. There were also discussions about encouraging SMRO(s) and clubs to work together, comparisons between new and old media and how to use the new stuff, being a successful bikers rights activist and how to be more legislatively savvy. Even the Friday Night Fundraiser was all fun and games. We'll be looking forward to the 36th Annual MOTM in Indianapolis, Indiana next year...

The Legislative Roundtable, hosted by the Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists (VCOM), is a one-day meeting that gives riders a forum to discuss problems and areas of concern that they would like to see addressed by the General Assembly during the next legislative session. Riders from across the state get together to suggest ways to improve motorcycling, with past issues such as red traffic lights, the wearing of face-masks while riding, age restrictions of passengers and motorcycle-only checkpoints being brought to the General Assembly and motorcycle-friendly legislation successfully passed.

**LOOK TWICE  
FOR MOTORCYCLES**

# MOTM STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

## ALABAMA

Dead Red Bill died in Committee

Texting While Driving Legislation died in Committee

Field Tax increase 10 cents over the next three years passed 6 cents increase on 9/1/19

Use of electronic signage (Amber Alert) Watch for Motorcycles

## ARIZONA

HM2002 Anti-Profiling Unanimously Passed

- Transmitted to all Law Enforcement Agencies March 1st

Defeated Helmet Law again (>18)

- Attempted to add fees

Motorcycle Safety Fund Proclamation

Ticketed Rider Motorcycle Safety Course In place of Driver Safety Course

>300 Riders at Lobby Day at Noon

## ARKANSAS

District Memberships decreasing

Meet every two years on Legislative Issues

## COLORADO

Dead Red Legislation passed

Distracted Driving introduced but didn't get very far – will likely resubmit

Lane Splitting Bill and Anti-Profiling scheduled for next year

## GEORGIA

Distracted Driving Law "Increased Penalties for Distracted Driving" town hall meetings

Eliminated Lobbyist

Increase 1st year memberships (800), yet struggled with renewals

Opened new Urban Sport Bike Rider District in Metro Atlanta

Very successful Cruiser vs Sport Bike Events

May Motorcycle Awareness Proclamations

Top 2020 Priorities: Increase Penalties for Distracted Driving, Kill a Biker/Go to Jail, Red Light Bill

## IDAHO

Sponsor 9 new members to the MRF

Distracted Driving – lost by two votes

Working with Idaho CMS on Anti-Profiling Bill

## ILLINOIS

Profiling: ISP proposed a policy to withdraw traffic support if 1% were present

- ABATE convinced ISP to drop the proposal

Town of Harvard & Hebron had an ordinance banning vests as "Gang Attire"

- Eliminated the Ordinance in Harvard

Introduced Anti-Profiling Legislation

Autonomous Vehicles unregulated testing resulted in a rescinded endorsement for the Governor

Statewide campaign to draw attention to AV issues

Stop pro-industry legislation

Meetings with NHTSA

Cap registration fees for motorcycles

Increased the motorcycle training fund

Social Media Campaign regarding grass clippings

Amicus brief regarding seizure and forfeiture of membership materials

## INDIANA

Legislative Director Mike Meyer passed away

Fought off language in legislation related to exhaust and other objectionable issues

Gained support for a resolution requesting ORV access to the Hoosier National Forest

A kickoff event for Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month on Monument Circle

Riding Relationships with Urban Riders

Moto America to Indy in August 2020

Co-produced the 12th annual Motorcycle son Meridian in Indianapolis with 40,000 motorcycles and 70,000 people

Hosting 2020 Meeting of the Minds in Indianapolis

# AROUND THE STATES

## IOWA

Preserved Helmet Freedom of Choice  
Insurance Enforcement Defeated  
May Motorcycle Awareness Month  
"Can you see me now" food drive  
Share the Road to ~10,000 students since January

## KENTUCKY

Bicycle Helmet Bill amended to include Motorcycles which was defeated  
- Warning: watch anything with word "helmet."  
Grass Clippings Bill – looking at supporting  
Vehicle Miles Travel Tax – watching

## LOUISIANA

3rd State to pass Motorcycle Profiling! ACT #294 – 01 August 2019  
HCR46 - "All Road Users Act" – studied by LA Law Institute  
"Vulnerable Road Users" – increased penalties for injuries (\$70.50 for illegal left turn)  
5 of 6 LA Congressmen to become cosponsors of HR255 (Anti-Profiling)  
"Watch for Motorcycles" PSAs  
May – Motorcycle Awareness  
28th Annual Mid-South MILE in Shreveport, LA

## MASSACHUSETTS

This is the first year of the two-year General Court (aka: "Legislative Session")  
We have filed the same 8 Bills we have been filing for the last 5 Legislative sessions and we co-filed an additional bill with the Professional Firefighters of MA to allow Firefighter plates on motorcycles with the proceeds going to the Firefighters Memorial on State House Property  
Opposing:  
**SB2124** An Act concerning Motorcycle Permits (aka "the Father's Bill") requiring Rider Education and 6 months of clean D-Class prior to Motorcycle Permit  
**HB3083** An Act to Allow Interlocking Ignition Devices on Motorcycles  
**HB3125** An Act to further Regulate Motorcycle Exhaust Sound Levels  
Opposing 3 bills filed by the AMA Grassroots State Coordinator:  
**HB3041** An Act To Update Massachusetts Driver Education - Conflicts with our bill doing the same thing, just poorly written and as written

would make the entire Safety Fund for this purpose, and this purpose only

**SB1399** An Act to Prohibit Profiling of Motorcyclists and Motorcycle Only Checkpoints - Conflicts with ours but written in almost a militant tone, and with a warning

**SB2077 and HB3064** - An Act to Allow Lane Splitting in Massachusetts

Other issues we are dealing with this year:

- A complete makeover of the Transportation Committee with 11 new members out of 20 were replaced
- Preparing the budget which once again wasn't passed until late July
- All but the Transportation Committee in particular have been involved with hearing as to what really happened at the RMV that allowed the individual that killed the 7 Jarhead MC members to still have a driver's license
- At this time there is no hearing concerning motorcycles scheduled through the end of September

## MICHIGAN

Objective to reduce motorcycle accidents and fatalities through strict enforcement of cycle endorsement requirements  
\$5 of plate fee to the safety program  
Raise the tuition for rider education  
Handlebar Height Bill from 15" to 30"  
Mandated penalties for fatality  
Lane Filtering Bill for low-speed traffic jams based on other State's bills  
Unlimited Medical for No-Fault

## MINNESOTA

Hands-Free Cell Phone Bill - passed  
Small Fee increase fees for MC endorsements & licensing fees  
- Would require 3-wheel endorsement fee – did not pass  
Profiling Bill Did not pass  
Monitor bill to require under-insured/uninsured license coverage as part of insurance policy - did not pass

# MOTM STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

## MISSOURI

Helmet Choice - Vetoed by Governor  
- Vetoed for other amendments  
Anti-Profiling, Distracted Driving, Failure to Yield did not pass  
2020 Is 40th Anniversary of FORR

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

No Legislation in 2019  
#LiveFreeRideSmart Program PSAs  
Safety Traffic Commission Seat  
Hour to Driver Ed Instructors in November regarding Motorcycle Issues  
Motorcycle Awareness Rally in May – Precision Riding Demo, & Safety Awareness Month

## NORTH CAROLINA

Passed Motorcycle Exemption on Mask Act  
Introduced legislation for Grass Clippings (did not pass)  
Freedom of Choice Introduced (did not pass)  
Supported Hands-Free Legislation  
Expanded Motorcycle Safety Awareness Program (30,000 students)

## NORTH DAKOTA

Opposed Legislation to Register Bikes for two years  
Motorcycle Dealers wanted to raise cc's for Children under 16 from 250-510cc  
- Opposed, but passed  
Study on Road Trains (# trailers behind trucks)

## OHIO

Earplug Legislation (currently not allowed to wear them for protection)  
Passed house 95-0, now in Senate  
Profiling not moving  
Road guard Bill  
Dead Red being resurrected  
Grass Clippings & Lane Filtering being considered

## OKLAHOMA

Tag Bill passed  
In 2015 Share the Road program started – over 10,000 miles  
2,000 teen-aged students & drivers from USPS, Bureau of Land Management  
Working on Internet Safety Presentation for other organizations (trucking companies, etc.)  
Started a Court Watch  
- Motorcycle accident, especially hit & run

## OREGON

All rider ed going through Team OR  
Hands-Free Bill passed, but not being enforced or not effective  
Vulnerable Roadway Users Bill – 4th-degree assault - Mopeds and Motorcycles added to the existing law

## PENNSYLVANIA

**HB26** – Lemon Law – added Motorcycles  
- Senator head of committee won't let it off his desk  
Motor Vehicle Endorsement passed  
- increases fine if you don't have MC Endorsement  
Free Motorcycle Training in PA  
**HB634** – Motorcycle Processions  
- Need permits from each borough or city, permit fees in each  
**SB62** – Disabled Veterans Plates  
**HB732** – Grass Clippings (add to existing trash law)  
Lobbyist is retiring at the end of the year

## SOUTH CAROLINA

May Awareness Rally  
Helmet Law Support Rally  
High Mileage Deduction for MTC  
Interlocks on Motorcycles with Camera required after 2nd DUI  
South Carolina Rider Education Classes on decline due to lack of funding  
Motorcycle Safety Task Force Participation  
Grass Debris on Roadway



Side Care License requiring M Endorsement

3 wheel vehicles do not require an endorsement while MC with Sidecar does

Lane Filtering for High Traffic Areas include Freeways

Watching enhanced penalties for certain accidents - **SO117** tightens up penalties

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Concealed AND Carry on Motorcycle

- Must be cased
- Bill defeated, and although Constitutional Carry passed
- Hoping to repeal this next year

Whitewood Social Hour (125 people from 15 states at Sturgis Rally)

Bikers Inside the Beltway

- 66% of delegation on MC Caucus
- 100% on Profiling Resolution

## **UTAH**

Preserving and maintaining Freedom of Choice

Lane Filtering law passed HB-149 went into effect May 14, 2019

Annual Motorcycle Anti-Profiling Freedom Rally at the Capital-Every May 17th

Signed on a sponsor to file and support an Anti-Profiling Motorcycle bill

Distracted Drivers bill HB-13 (working to get enhanced penalties)

Encouraging motorcycle training for beginner riders and refresher courses annually

Motorcycle awareness billboards over major highways

Recruiting and increasing memberships, developing stronger marketing strategies

Held another successful "Ride the Brainwave" annual charity event

Joining forces and working with other organizations and clubs to help with the fight

## **VIRGINIA**

Defeated salvage bill to change the definition to repair a totaled motorcycle

Beginning steps of "Watch for Motorcycles" Plate

Unsuccessful – motorcycles use shoulders of limited access highways

Unsuccessful – prohibit depositing grass clipping on roadways with speeds of >35MPH

## **WISCONSIN**

45th Anniversary

Autocycle Definition

Autonomous Vehicle Bill regulation and truck platooning from last year

Vehicle Data Recorder Bill

E15 Opposition

Legalize Paddle Wheels for fundraising (Poker Runs not legal in WI)

6 of 8 Congressmen to support Anti-Profiling

Presented at ACOA meeting with overwhelming support from clubs

Share the Road Program support through Clubhouse to Clubhouse Run

Assisting in fighting an attempt to put helmets on off-road motorcycles

Helmet Free since 1977

Chair the Motorcycle Safety Advisory Council Presented at Governor's Highway Safety Conference Outstanding State Motorcyclist Rights Organizations Receive ABATE of Colorado worked to pass SB-1—144 and joins the growing list of States that allow Motorcyclists to proceed through defective traffic sensing devices at intersections controlled by traffic lights.

Our Committee worked with our Lobbyists, Rocky and Tiffany to present the following Federal Legislative Awards:

New Hampshire Motorcycle Rights Organization for the great job they did on following up with the Representatives after visits from Rocky and Tiffany to get them signed on the House anti-profiling Resolution.

New Mexico Motorcycle Rights Organization for all the letters to Congress that paved the way for our MRF Lobbyists on the Profiling Resolution cosponsors.

ABATE of Illinois, who, at the time of our selection deadline, had the most House members signed on to the Profiling Resolution.

ABATE of South Dakota for their relationship with Sen. Thune, which helped pave the way for including Motorcycle specific language in the Autonomous Vehicle Technology bill.

Congratulations to the SSMROs for all of their hard work in the past year. Also a big thank you to every SSMRO and every one of your members in the country for all you do to protect and defend motorcycling.

# Outstanding State Motorcyclist Rights Organizations Receive Awards at MOTM

At the beginning of the annual Meeting of the Minds Conference, all Sustaining State Motorcyclist Rights Organizations (SSMROs) are invited to share what they have accomplished in the past year. For many of us, this sharing of information it is one of the highlights of the MOTM and is truly a "Meeting of the Minds." The SSMROs can find out who has had similar problems and how they overcame them. This leads to many side discussions in the hallways and the Hospitality Room, just as our Founders intended.

Every year the Legislative Awards Committees have the daunting of selecting the recipients of the yearly Legislative Activity Awards by the beginning of August. We rely on input from MRF State Reps and their submissions to the ABJ, as well as posts to the MRF Reps email list and Releases sent by SSMROs. Every year we have a few surprises on Thursday night. The following list of recipients is in no way intended to slight the hard work of any other SSMROs. While I would love to be able to give an award to every SSMRO that has had a victory in the past year, but that is not possible given the short time we are all together at MOTM.

This year State Legislative Activity Awards were given to:

**ABATE of Louisiana** and the **Louisiana Confederation of Independent Riders** worked together to make Louisiana the third State in the country pass Anti-Profilng Legislation to protect Motorcyclists in their State from unfair profiling from their state and local law enforcement agencies. Act 294 took effect in August.

Following in their footsteps **ABATE of Arizona**, **Arizona Modified Motorcycle Association** and **Arizona Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs** worked to pass HM 2002, a resolution to "Encourage Prevention of Motorcyclist Profiling, making them the fourth State to successfully address this problem.

**ABATE of Utah** addressed the needs of Motorcyclists stuck in slow or stopped traffic on their roadways by passing HB 149 to allow motorcyclists to filter between stopped and slow traffic. Having ridden in Utah in June I can see the need to keep moving; the high desert sun will bake you into heat exhaustion or heat stroke and the lack of air movement will overheat an air-cooled engine rapidly.

**Rhode Island Motorcycle Association** passed H 5465 regulating the use of steel plates in roadway repair. Plates must now be marked, secured and have a slip-resistant surface. There must also be a controlled transition to the plate from the roadway, no more abrupt elevation changes to damage wheels and tires.

**ABATE of Colorado** worked to pass SB-1—144 and joins the growing list of States that allow Motorcyclists to proceed through defective traffic sensing devices at intersections controlled by traffic lights.



**Dennis Haberstumpf on behalf of ABATE of Colorado for their passage of a Dead Read Bill.**

Our Committee worked with our Lobbyists, Rocky and Tiffany to present the following Federal Legislative Awards:

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Congratulations to the SSMROs for all of their hard work in the past year. Also a big thank you to every SSMRO and every one of your members in the country for all you do to protect and defend motorcycling.

*Submitted by: Dave Dwyer  
MRF SSMRO Representative*



**"Brick" Lindsey with ABATE of Louisiana for becoming the 3rd state to pass a profiling law.**



**Mike Infanzon on behalf of ABATE of Arizona in recognition of passing a profiling resolution.**



**Dale Dedrick on behalf of AZMC in recognition of passing a profiling resolution.**



**Sky Pilot and Bobbi Hartmann on behalf of Modified Motorcycle Association - AZ in recognition of passing a profiling resolution.**

# EYE ON THE PRIZE



**Cindy Hodges**  
**MRF Member Representative**

If you are a political animal, you are very aware that there are bridges burning and changes coming. If you are of the "woo-woo" spiritual sort, you are aware that there are bridges burning and changes coming. In short, there is unease, discontentment, and strife in many aspects of our lives right now.

There has been loss, and there have been breaks in faith.

What comes after a fire? New growth. Rebuilding. What carries us through it? Keeping our eyes on the objective.

How we feel about who is in office – from our government to our local community boards, differs from others feelings and opinions. How do we move forward? Together. We move together, or we fall apart. We remember what our mission is, what we want our nation to be, our neighborhoods to be, our personal lives to be and we stand together.

I was talking to a friend tonight about what our government is focusing on, how our nation is being viewed globally, and we agreed that we cannot blame legislators and office holders. Sure they have had (still have) a role to play and an obligation to address things, but we as citizens also had and have a role to play. We as members of our organizations have a role to play.

The world is run by those who show up. So show up. It FEELS personal; it IS personal and but we cannot act as we TAKE it personally. Does that make sense? Not unless taking it personally means working harder in an adult manner! If we take it personally, we man/woman up and proceed or play through in the way in which we are meant to engage. Work towards the goal. We cannot allow what is said on social media, in magazines, or on television to get us so overwrought that we walk away from our groups. Our groups were designed to have a presence, a "showing up." So, as I said, Show Up. Be unified.

Here in our little world, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation has a very tight focus. Issues are affecting street motorcyclists. Our membership is comprised of Democrats, Republicans, Democratic Socialists, Green Party members, Libertarians, Independents, and probably some Klingons. We work together, we get together, and we get our agenda hammered out, and we follow through.

Be Proud! Bridges are burning, and our eyes are steadfastly on the prize.

***Now go sign up some more Klingons because membership numbers are down.***



Motorcycle  
Riders  
Foundation



12TH ANNUAL  
MICHAEL "BOZ" KERR

# Bikers Inside the Beltway

NATIONAL  
MOTORCYCLISTS'  
LOBBY DAY

May 19, 2020

*Join fellow riders from across the country to help educate lawmakers on the issues that impact your right to ride!*

Pre-event briefing May 18, 2020  
Event May 19, 2020

Hotel information pending  
Please visit [www.mrf.org](http://www.mrf.org) for updates

Sponsored by the Motorcycle Riders Foundation

Motorcycle Riders Foundation

# 2019 FOUNDERS "OLD TIMER" AWARD



*Excerpt from Kirk "Hardtail" Willard during award presentations at the 2019 Meeting of the Minds Banquet and Awards Ceremony.*

The Founders Award, also known as the "Old Timers" Award, was created in 2006 by one of the MRF Founders and our first Chairman of the Board, Michael "Balls" Farabaugh, in order to recognize significant contributions these individuals made to the MRF and on behalf of the motorcyclists of our nation while serving as MRF Board Members and/or MRF Steering Committee members.

This years' recipient of the Old Timers Award was a State Coordinator in ABATE of Missouri in the late 1970's. He moved to Nebraska in 1982 and quickly became an involved member. He has made it to all of the MRF Meeting of the Minds minus the first one due to a growing family. In 1986 he and his family moved to Oklahoma and he became a Life Member of ABATE of Tulsa. Next, he was elected as a Representative to the Board of ABATE of Oklahoma out of the Muskogee Chapter. He has been a fixture at MRF Regional Conferences, MRF's Meeting of the Minds, MRF's Bikers Inside the Beltway, and a long-time organizing committee member for the Mid-South M.I.L.E Regional SMRO Annual Conference.

In 1988, his Harley Davidson broke down in Colorado, Mark Buckner volunteered to haul him and his bike home to Oklahoma, and before the end of the ride he had been "Bucknered" into becoming the MRF Reports Editor.

In 1997, he was honored with a Lifetime Achievement/Lifetime Membership Award, presented with the MRF Presidents Cup in 1998, and in 2019 Charlie Williams is our Founders Award recipient.

# **FIRST TIME MEETING OF THE MINDS**

## **ATTENDEE NOTE**

Dear Members and Friends of the MRF,

I have been an ABATE of Minnesota member for over 20 years and a MRF member, maybe half of that. This year was the first time I ever attended a Meeting of the Minds Conference. I want to encourage anyone who has never attended a MRF conference to do so. It was very informative, with a lot of great speakers providing a ton of information about almost any topic you can think of. There was so much knowledge and passion in that room, and it was amazing to be a part of it.

I want to thank you for letting me be a part of it by singing the National Anthem for the opening of the conference. When I was asked to sing, I was scared to death, but honored as well. I love to sing, but really, singing in front of 300 bikers was a little intimidating. However, when the color guard walked in and proceeded to the front of the room, I got goosebumps as everyone stood at attention. The reverence in the room was so thick you could hear a pin drop. When I started to sing, I was nervous as hell, then out of the corner of my eye I could see members putting their hand over their heart or saluting to our flag. Wow, what an incredible sight. We sing the National Anthem quite often, have you ever really listened to the words? As I practiced for the conference, the words started to come alive to me. "Oh say does that Star Bangled Banner yet wave".....can you imagine, after a night of waiting out the bombing, wondering if your Fort was still standing? And then as morning dawns and the smoke clears, there is your red, white and blue waving in the breeze. That reminds me of the MRF and other SMRO's.

We work so hard — fighting and scraping our way through laws and ordinances to defend our rights as motorcyclists. And sometimes when we get to the top, we get knocked down again. But then, with the fortitude of the MRF and those tireless freedom fighters, we wake up one day and our red, white and blue is flying high!! Thank you for all you do. Everyone I met that weekend carried that same passion and fight. It was an incredible weekend.

Thank you for the privilege of being a part of this conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Herzberg

ABATE of Minnesota

Lake Chapter



Opening ceremony National Anthem soloist shows competitive side at Friday evening games.



Patty Herzberg (L) pictured with fellow Lake Chapter members, Mike & Sherry Edgett during MOTM.



The Federation of European  
Motorcyclists' Associations

# NEWS FROM EUROPE

## BRITISH RIDERS REJECT BAN ON INTERNAL COMBUSTION-POWERED VEHICLES

More and more national governments are planning to ban the sale of internal combustion-powered vehicles. Members of British motorcyclists' organization MAG reject the ban the UK government wants to implement from 2040.

On Saturday 28th September 2019, at their 45th Annual Group Conference (AGC), MAG United Kingdom members generated a strong and uncompromising message regarding what they see as unworkable and unrealistic transport policies that are being promoted by politicians of all colours.

During the Conference, a series of proposals made by former MAG National Chairman, Neil Liversidge, were discussed and put to the vote. All passed; most by an overwhelming majority. According to MAG the proposals progress and solidify MAG's position, which promotes freedom of choice in personal transport, and an integrated transport system that works for all members of society, the economy and the environment.

The position defined by these proposals rejects the proposed 2040 ban on the sale of internal combustion-powered vehicles, or any similar ban at any other date. Promoting freedom of choice, the position rejects assumptions that electrification of the entire vehicle fleet in the UK is achievable. It does, however, support electrification and improvement of an affordable public transport network, which will naturally encourage voluntary reductions in the use of private transport. Finally, the introduction of fully autonomous vehicles on UK roads is opposed, due to the evidence suggesting that they will never be sufficiently safe on a road environment that must necessarily accommodate motorcyclists and cyclists without segregation.

A further resolution, brought by Life Member, Stephen Kearney, also reaffirmed the central role of motorcycles in MAG's vision, which promotes motorcycles as the most efficient and least polluting fossil fuel-powered transport mode.

Neil Liversidge said: "We recognise that transport needs to change given the UK's dense population, but dictatorial measures such as banning internal combustion-powered vehicles are not the way to do it. Put in a proper public transport system so people have a real choice, and let them keep their bikes and cars and way of life. A lot is talked these days about respecting different cultures: well, we have a culture too and we demand that it is respected also. Internal combustion-powered vehicles have brought massive benefits to millions of people that electric vehicles will never realistically bring."

MAG is a member of FEMA.

**Be sure to check out <http://www.fema-online.eu> for more motorcycling news in Europe.**





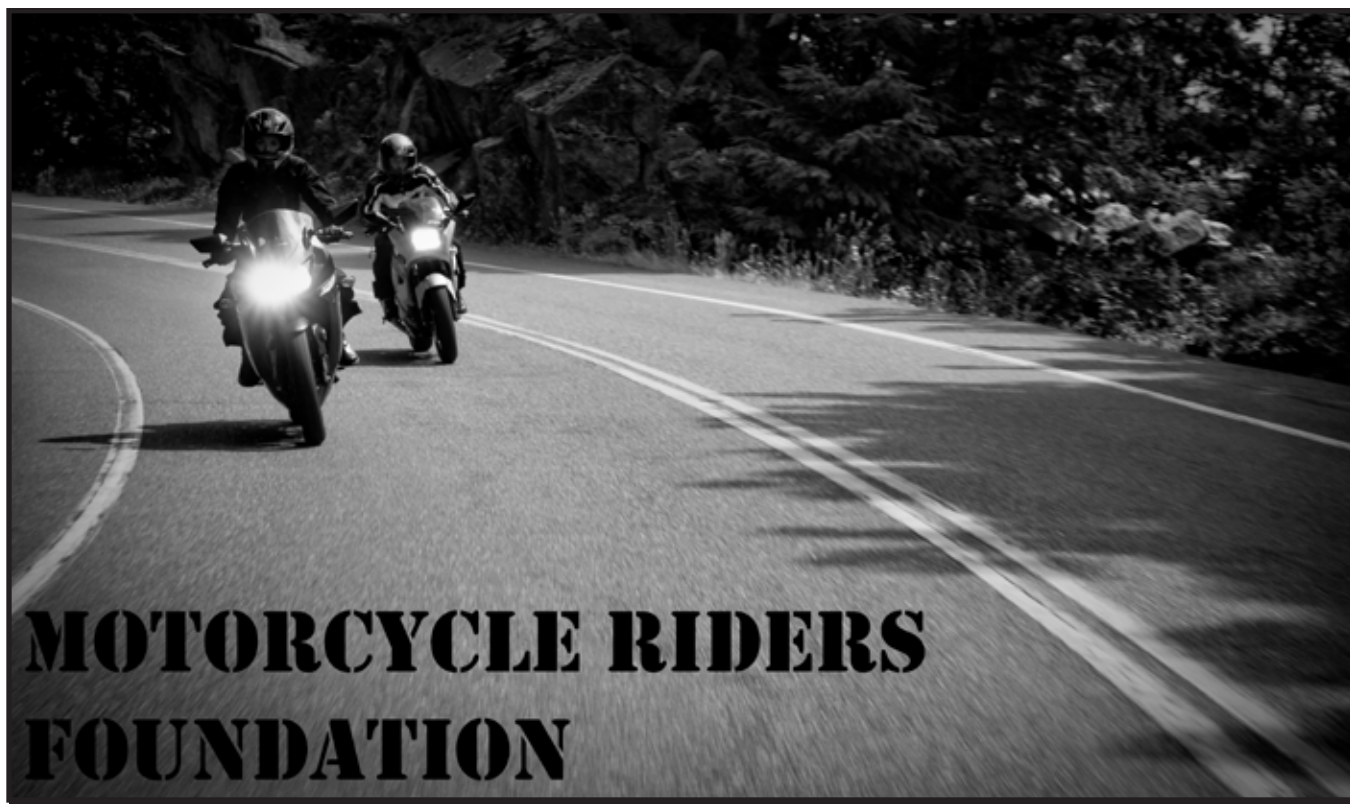
# TREASURER'S NOTE

Dave Cazel  
MRF Treasurer

The 35TH Meeting Of The Minds was a success. Due to the overwhelming efforts of the numerous volunteers and the hard work of the organizers, the MOTM was outstanding. While the MRF is the beneficiary of the activities, it is the motorcyclist of each state and each SMRO that will ultimately benefit from the actions of the attendees. Thank you to all who gave so generously of their time, energy and, of course, their money. We "SOAKED IT UP," we've begun to "FIX IT," and this MOTM was proof we're going to "GET BETTER."

The general and breakout sessions flowed with information and offered ideas, objectives and solutions to enable the motorcyclist's rights movement to move forward nationally in a cohesive fashion with well-defined goals. I overheard many comments from the attendees that this conference was one of the best. Much knowledge was gained and much more was passed around. With these types of reactions we set the bar that much higher for the future.

Again, thank you all for the success of the MOTM and I'll do my best to keep my eye on the purse and see that your MRF continues to pursue the objectives outlined in its charter to actively advocate for motorcyclist's rights in the nation's capital.



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Tiffany Cipoletti  
editor@mrf.org

**Send all submissions to:** editor@mrf.org

## Deadline

The 1st of every even number month

**NEXT DEADLINE:** December 1, 2019

## ADDRESS CHANGE

Please mail to:

PO Box 255

Highland, IL 62249

or

**Phone:** (202) 546-0983

**Email:** mrfoffice@mrf.org

**Website:** www.mrf.org

## Ballot for Member Representative to the Motorcycle Riders Foundation Board of Directors

○ Todd Riba

All Ballots must be returned to the MRF office postmarked by **December 15, 2019.**

**Mail to:**

Dave Dwyer  
MRF Election Chair  
N9629 Kuhn Rd  
Portage WI 53901

Candidate will be seated at the MRF Winter Board Meeting.

(Online subscription members must print their ballot and return it to address above)

# 2019 MRF AWARD WINNERS

Thomas Paine - Skee Dodson (TX)

Founders/Old Timers - Charlie Williams (OK)

Lifetime Achievement - Mark "Mac" Backlund (MN)

Presidents Cup - Auggie Minzlaff (SD) & Steve Panten (WI)

Farmers Award - Lane Triplett (ID)

MRFPAC Award - Jim "Legs" Korte (IL)

MRF Champions - Legislator's of the Year

House of Representatives - Collin Peterson (D-MN)

Senate - Joni Ernst (R-IA)

Membership Awards

Total Overall Membership - Wisconsin

Most Sustaining Members - Wisconsin

Greatest Percentage of Growth - Tennessee

State with the Most Clubs - Michigan

Reps Awards

Deb Butitta Rep of the Year Award - Gary Goracke (MN)

Top Recruiters - Tom "Jinx" Rahn (MI), Andy Kelly (PA), Shelly Holcomb (SC), Cindy Hodges (NC), Jim Dahlling (MN), Eric Ross (IA), Paulette Korte (IL), Todd Riba (MN), Dave Cazel (ID), Amy Allmon (MO) & Jen Dewitz (WI)

MRF Board of Director's Retirement

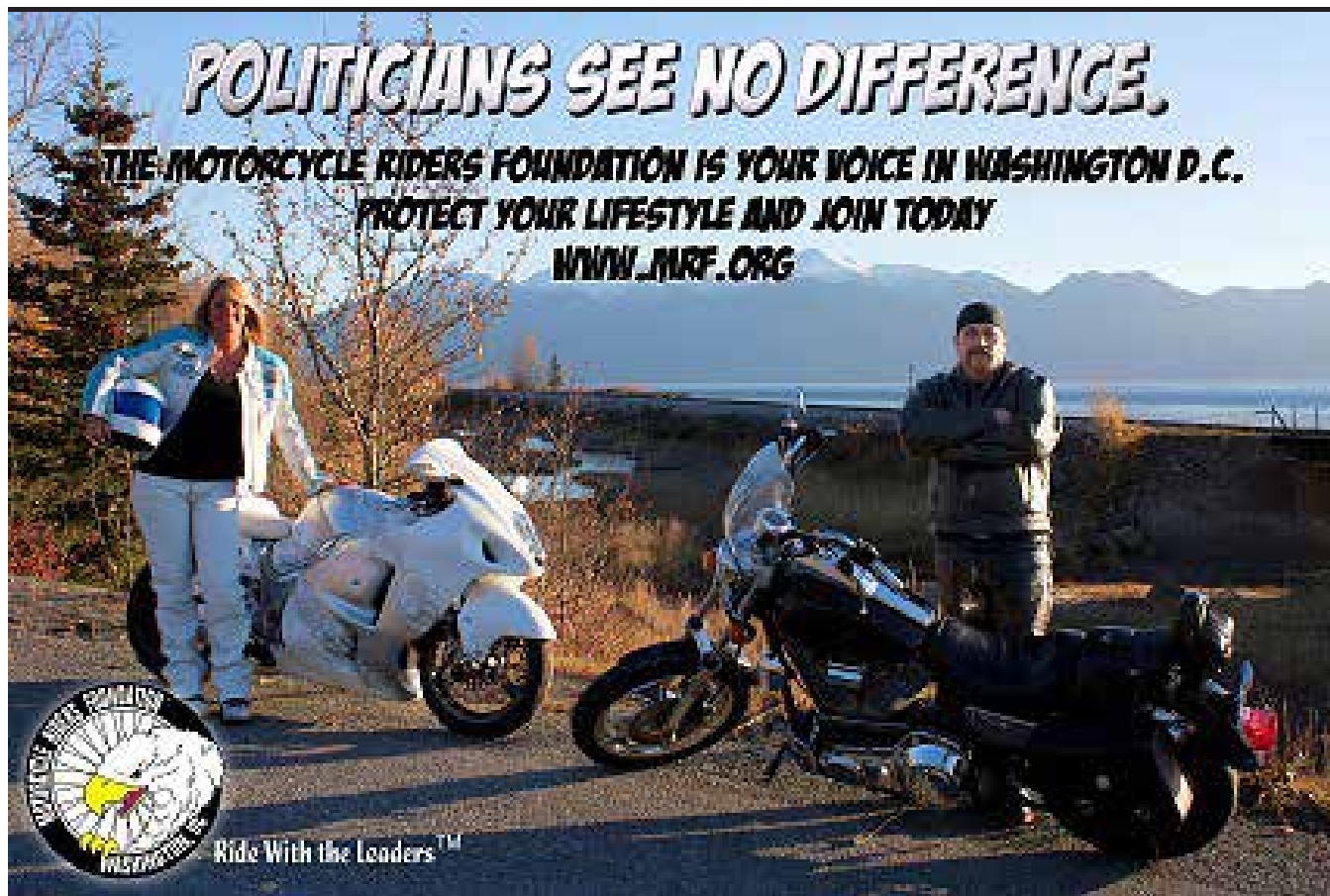
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- ☐ Annual Joint Membership \$60
- ☐ Annual Sustaining Membership \$100
- ☐ Annual Industry Council Membership \$100



- ☐ 3-Year Individual Membership \$95
- ☐ 3-Year Joint Membership \$140
- ☐ Sustaining Membership Club \$100
- ☐ Freedom Fighter Donation \$10 \$25 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Motorcycle Riders Foundation  
PO Box 250 Highland, IL 62249

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**It's time you did something more to protect your rights!**  
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