



July 2022
Issue 2022-1

ABATE of Maryland, Inc.



Dedicated to Freedom of the Road
and Responsible Motorcycle
Legislation

A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments

ROLLIN' FOR YOUR RIGHTS

Newsletter

WOW, a newsletter! It has been quite sometime since we had one of these, and the idea of resurrecting the newsletter has been tossed around a lot. For now, we hope to get out at least three issues a year and they will be electronic initially. We may try and send some out by mail in the future, but we are checking costs and coordinating the effort required (printing, folding, postage, etc.). Unfortunately, it takes quite a bit of effort and time to get these things out. Right now we hope for a summer, fall and spring issue.

Having said all that, this newsletter will change as we go along. We will be asking for information from chapters, national MRO's and other areas of interest to motorcyclists. Don't be afraid to contact us with tidbits of information that we can use. What do you as the membership want to see in the newsletter?

YOU are ABATE

ABATE of Maryland, Inc. is THE voice of motorcyclists in Maryland. We are the ones that roam the halls in Annapolis and remind the legislators that we are here! We talk to the senators and delegates. We track what is going on that affects motorcyclists. We are concerned about ALL aspects of motorcycling. We all need to remember that we ALL are ABATE of Maryland, Inc. No individual person, chapter or chapters, are more important than the other. We all are ABATE. We are the faces and the voices of motorcyclists.

What really needs to be remembered is **YOU are ABATE**. Our members are our strength. The more voices we have from all parts of the state, the more informed voice we are able to provide. When we walk through those halls and they immediately recognize us as ABATE, that means we have a powerful voice. They know us and they remember us. We need to keep up that great work and build on that connection. That starts right in your hometown. When you see your senator or delegate on the street, say hello. Ask them questions or remind them that we have bills we are concerned about. Invite them to an event or meeting. Your elected representatives should know you by your first name when they see you. After a while, they will recognize you as someone that they might want to discuss other issues with. After all, we are ABATE, and we come from all walks of life. Our members are motorcyclists, but they are also, lawyers, watermen, truck drivers, mechanics, electricians, parents, etc. Get out there and **BE ABATE!**

ABATE is about PEOPLE
ABATE is about EDUCATION
ABATE is about FREEDOM

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State Director's Corner

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As I look back over my term as executive director, I believe it has been a successful term. Over the last 2 years we have been effectively locked out of the state offices because of Covid concerns. With only a few weeks remaining in the last session, in person lobbying was finally permitted. We testified in person before the senate regarding the 2022 version of the Helmet modification bill. Abate members walked the halls during the only two weeks of Monday night lobbying remaining but only saw a few cleaning people—no legislators. I believe we will be able to have more access this upcoming legislative session.

Despite the challenges of no in person meetings with our elected officials, we did provide written and oral testimony for many bills. We successfully testified against many bills that we believe will do harm to Maryland motorcyclists such as the excessive noise bill, two-year inspection bill, emissions fees bills, and a few others. We also fought for the helmet modification bill and the must appear bill. The must appear bill again passed the Senate unanimously and again was never voted on in the house. We will continue to watch for bills that affect motorcyclists. For details of our efforts this past session please see the 2022 legislative recap in another section of this newsletter.

We also deeply felt the loss of some of ABATE's most instrumental and lifelong members: Gary Broward (Pappy), Paul Jackson, Jay Wagner, and PJ Wainer. Pappy had a wealth of knowledge from his years of working for motorcyclists (as executive director, chapter director, Chairman of the Board) and so many connections in the motorcycling community. Not only was it devastating to lose a friend but also to lose a font of wisdom. Paul Jackson was an original member of Abate of Maryland and he, as a promoter, always provided discounts or free space to ABATE to have a booth at motorcycle events. Paul always looked out and supported the Organization till his death. Jay Wagner was committed to the legislative process and frequently attended Monday night lobbying advocating for motorcyclists' rights. PJ Wainer was one of the most effective ticket salesmen ever. Despite these losses we will continue to do our best to be the voice of riders throughout the State.

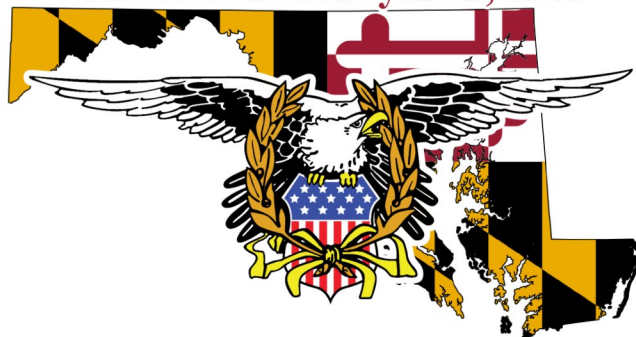
Thanks to the Board of Directors and all that have worked hard advancing ABATE of Maryland. Your time manning a booth, selling raffle tickets, and talking to others about ABATE is what keeps us growing. We strive to be a watchdog for motorcyclists.

I will always believe in the fundamentals of the organization and strive to make it better every day. You are being left in the capable hands of Kenneth Eaton the next Director that has a vision of the future and still keeps the values of the past.

See your local chapters and ask what you can do to help. If you can donate to the Scott Rice Memorial headstone fund, please do. Scott was a great member and did tons of work for the Organization. His legacy is what we should all strive for.

Ken Sawyer
Executive Director
ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

ABATE of Maryland, Inc.



Chairman's Message

I grew up as a child of the 1960's raised by a WW II vet. The war had only been over for 12 years when I was born. My friends and I spent a lot of time playing "Army". "Combat" was my favorite TV show. In 1964, just as The Beatles and The Rolling Stones were starting to take over the radio airwaves, "The Great Escape" was released into movie theaters. Being a motion picture about Allied prisoners escaping a WW II German prison camp, I was captivated by the subject. What I wasn't expecting was the incredible motorcycle chase scene involving motorcycle enthusiast and collector Steve McQueen. His dynamic riding skills and cool persona planted a seed in my mind. Fast forward to 1969 when my Mom and Dad took me and my best friend to see "Easy Rider". As an 11 year-old boy, seeing those beautiful Harley Davidson choppers and the great cinematography of the film made a decided impact on me. It would be 14 years before I would get my motorcycle endorsement on my Maryland driver's license and purchase a 1982 H-D Sportster. I rode as often as I could. I seldom wore a helmet, as they weren't required equipment. I never gave the matter much thought. In 1985 Janis and I bought our first home. The telephone technician who arrived to hook up our phone line told my wife Janis that he belonged to a Motorcycle Rights Organization called ABATE of Maryland. He invited us to attend a meeting. I had never thought about politics, civic engagement or much else besides riding my bike. My lessons were about to begin.

The first matter of business when I arrived at "Bottom of the Bay" Tattoo Studio in Prince Frederick for our County meeting was registering to vote. The members of Calvert ABATE spoke of fighting attempts to mandate helmet usage. I learned that Del. Teddy Levin of Balt. Co. would introduce mandatory helmet use legislation every year. I went to Annapolis and met my delegate Mr. George Owings who I learned, rode a motorcycle as well. He has since become a life-long friend. I attended a League of Women Voters legislative seminar and was right there when Del. Levin did his stupid "Egg Carton Trick" on the House floor. I voted for the first time in my life. I was no longer an oblivious bystander. I was "involved" in the political process as we strived to protect our "Freedom of the Road". In 1989 I became County Director of ABATE of Md.'s Calvert Co. Chapter, a position I would hold for 2 years. In 1992, under false pretenses Gov. William Donald Shafer would push through a mandatory helmet bill. By the mid-1990's I had become burned out by the process and our County chapter fell into disarray. I continued to renew my membership but no longer travelled to Annapolis. I attended ABATE functions in St. Mary's County. I still bitched regularly about the matters we faced in ABATE, but I was no longer involved or engaged.

In 2004, after watching several failed attempts to revive Calvert's ABATE chapter I attended a meeting at "Big Daddy's" Barbecue in Prince Frederick. I could tell the new director Neal Ackerson had the charisma and enthusiasm needed to bring the chapter back. Soon I had met many new friends, riders, and freedom fighters. I had been re-energized. I became Asst. Director of the chapter and eventually took the position of Legislative Representative. I tried to create lasting relationships with Delegates and Senators who supported our positions. In 2015 we passed legislation to prohibit LEOs from pulling over groups of motorcyclists to "check" their equipment. The following year we became only the 2nd state in the Union to prohibit "motorcycle profiling". We continue to try and make that a National Law.

As I predicted back in 2004 when I returned to attending meetings, we now have a significant number of politicians who want to make our way of life illegal. California has already passed bills making internal combustion engines illegal. Ill-conceived bills introduced to severely reduce carbon emissions, decibel levels for exhaust, proposed vehicle mileage taxes for motorists, National mandates for helmets and other so-called "safety equipment" are just some of the struggles we face in the 21st Century. I don't think the brave American soldiers who fought in WW II or any of the first chopper jockeys like Billy and Captain America imagined that the freedoms they fought for would face such an onslaught. As Jack Nicholson's character, George Hanson said to Dennis Hopper in Easy Rider; *"They're not scared of you. They're scared of what you represent to them.... Freedom!! They'll talk to you about individual freedom but if they see a free individual it's gonna scare them."* **Here's to a free America and FREEDOM of the ROAD.**

Bob Spanburgh Jr
Chairman of the Board
ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

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Check out our website for more
chapter info: [https://
abateofmd.org/chapter-info/](https://abateofmd.org/chapter-info/)



Anne Arundel County Chapter News

Anne Arundel County Chapter

Meeting dates & time: 3rd Thursdays, 7:00 pm

Location: Ellie's Place

8421 Veterans Highway
Millersville, MD 21108

Baltimore County Chapter News

Baltimore / Harford Chapter

Meeting dates & time: to be determined

Location: Looking for a venue

Calvert County Chapter News

Here are some highlights of what the Calvert County chapter has been doing recently:

On April 23rd we held our annual Scrabble Run. We had 48 participants who rode to the designated stops from Hollywood, MD to Deale, MD. During the run we sold 50/50 tickets and raffle bike tickets. We gained two new members and after paying out prizes and the 50/50 (the winner graciously donated back to Abate) this was a successful event.

On April 29 we held our first fundraiser dinner at the American Legion Post in Chesapeake Beach. The food was generously donated by the American Legion so our expenses for this event were minimal. Before selling out we were able to provide 68 dinners. We plan to host another fundraiser dinner in September.

Our Chapter submitted a request to the Calvert County Board of Commissioners that May be deemed Motorcycle Safety & Awareness in Calvert County and on May 3 the Calvert County Commissioner's presented the Proclamation to us at a BOCC meeting.

Recently we attended the Biker Bash at the Mayo American Legion to provide information about Abate and sell raffle bike tickets. There was a good turnout at the event, and we sold about 85 raffle tickets.

We are looking forward to our annual Chapter Memorial Ride on 9/25/22. We ride to several of our members' grave sites and remember our fallen brothers and sisters.

We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful area with meandering country roads and magnificent water views of the Chesapeake Bay or the Patuxent River. Come on down to Calvert County and enjoy a relaxing ride and grab a bite to eat with your friends.

Carroll County Chapter News

Carroll County Chapter

Meeting dates & time: 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm

Location: Open to suggestions

In Memoriam

In a future issue, we plan on devoting a section to the brothers and sisters that have gone on to ride with the angels. Since we have been around since 1974, and our list is getting long, but we think there are some gaps in it. If you have a list for your chapter or area, please submit it to your chapter director or send us an [email](#).

Talent Search

ABATE is looking for individuals that may have a skill or talent that can help our cause. Or maybe you just have the time and ambition and are willing to pitch in wherever needed.

Do you have mad graphics skills? How about the time and knowledge to assist with monitoring legislative issues? Are you a great event planner? Are you that person that loves to talk, mingle with the people, and spread the ABATE word? Any photographers out there? Do you have the time and talent to help us spruce up the State office? We can always use assistance. We have a great group of dedicated people and we are always looking for those that can share their time and talents with us. We all do this for the love of motorcycles, so let's all pull together and make ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

Let us know if you have any way you can assist ABATE.



Upcoming ABATE Events

Aug. 13: [Washington County Chapter Annual Ride-In Bike Show](#)

Aug. 27: [Harrison's Custom Cycle's Summer Blowout](#). Mid-Shore Chapter will be hosting the motorcycle rodeo

Oct. 1: Frederick County Chapter Marble Run Party

Oct. 1: [ABATE of Maryland, Inc Motorcycle Raffle Drawing](#)

Don't see your ABATE event listed here? [Send us a flyer](#) or event info and we will get it listed on our website & FB pages.



1990—State Party in Cumberland, MD

Charles County Chapter News

Hello from Charles County. We are a small group of folks dedicated to the freedom of the road. Our numbers have dwindled lately but we are looking to build our membership back up so please stop by. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 6PM at Grill 13 Restaurant in Waldorf. If anything, you will at least have a great meal and good conversation.

Respectfully,

Joel Jones
Charles County Director

Frederick County Chapter News

Meeting dates & time: 4th Wednesday of each month @ 7:00 pm

Location: The Frederick Moose Lodge 371
828 E. Patrick Street
Frederick Md. 21701

Mid-Shore Chapter News

We have had a year of changes. It started out normally with our Chili Cook-Off in March. However, shortly after that, we made the decision to stop having the Summer Bash. It was a tough one, but necessary. The time, cost, and work involved to pull off that party was just too much for the devoted members that helped out. It was a great party and we really enjoyed it, but at the end of the weekend, we were all just exhausted. With costs going up, that was just one more nail in the coffin. We are looking at all of our events and trying to revamp and have something different. We were invited to participate in a local motorcycle shop open house in April and it was a huge success. The motorcycling community in the Mid-Shore area came out in support of a new shop and ABATE was there. We saw many of our old friends and made a lot of new ones.

We had a good old fashioned "Bug Run" recently. With a few tweaks, we think this will become a favorite event. We also will be attending as a vendor at Harrison's Custom Cycles—Summer Blowout in Easton Maryland on August 27, 2022. We hope to have the raffle bike appearing live, sell more tickets, and spread the word about ABATE. Stop by and say hello!

We have been trying to attend other events. From Cars and Coffee, breakfast rides, dinner rides, cruise ins, to larger benefit rides. Whatever the name, we hope that you all get out and ride. There a lot of great roads on the eastern shore, you just have to get off of Rt. 50 and explore!

Prince George's County Chapter News

Meeting dates & time: 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm

Location: American Legion Post 227
13505 Cherry Tree Crossing Road
Brandywine, MD 20613

St. Mary's County Chapter News

Meeting dates & time: 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm

Location: VFW Post 2632
23282 Three Notch Rd.
California MD 20619

Washington County Chapter News

Meeting dates & time: 3rd Sunday of the month @ 4:00 pm

Location: North American Rod & Gun Club
12108 Belvedere Rd
Hagerstown, MD

Don't See Your County?

We have members throughout the state. If you don't see your County or specific area of the state listed here, please visit a chapter nearby. If you have a few friends that would like to start a chapter, please contact us to discuss getting started. We are always looking for people to help spread the ABATE message. The following areas are in need of interested people that would like to form a chapter:

- ◆ Howard County
- ◆ Lower Eastern Shore (Wicomico, Worcester & Somerset Counties)
- ◆ Montgomery County
- ◆ Northeast (Kent & Cecil Counties)

Email: info@abateofmd.org

Membership Secretary Report

My name is Joel Jones and have been the membership secretary for ABATE of MD since 2013. In that time, I have seen the state membership fluctuate with the times. One of the most important things I have learned is **MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE** and we always need members. It's difficult to talk to our state delegates for our cause when membership is in a downturn, and it may appear to them not enough people care about it so why should they listen. Change can only happen if our voice is loud enough for people to hear and one way to turn up the volume of that voice and be heard is by more membership in ABATE. So, my challenge to you as a current member is sign up a new member, even if it's just one. If we all sign up one new member, we will double our membership. Let's think outside the box. Members don't have to be motorcyclists to believe in our mission, for example the "Reckless and Negligent Driving Death of Another Must Appear Bill" which we fought for or the "Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program Not Subject to Inspection Fee Bill" which we fought against both affect all motor vehicles.

Talk to your friends and coworkers and educate them how some of these state government policies may affect them. Show them our web site <https://abateofmd.org/> and explain how we are about education and safety. Remember at one time you used to be a non-member; use what drove you to join in the first place as your guide. So, let's get out there and turn up the volume and let our many voices be heard loud and clear in Annapolis.

Joel Jones
Your Humble Membership Secretary

Raffle Bike News

The ABATE raffle bike has been making its rounds. If you haven't seen it, it is a 2022 Harley Davidson Street Glide Special. It is gunship gray gloss with blackout finish, 114 CI, the list goes on. Be sure to get your ticket! Only \$5! The winner will be drawn at 4pm on October 1, 2022.



**ANNUAL RAFFLE * GRAND PRIZE
2022 HARLEY DAVIDSON
STREET GLIDE SPECIAL**



**GUNSHIP GRAY - BLACK FINISH
114 CI, ABS BRAKES, BOOM BOX GTS
WINNER DRAWN AT 4PM * OCTOBER 1ST, 2022**

ALL DONATIONS ARE USED BY ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC. TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR THE MOTORCYCLISTS RIGHTS IN MARYLAND. DONATION \$5 PER TICKET * NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN * NO CASH VALUE. MOTORCYCLE PROVIDED BY: ALL AMERICAN HARLEY DAVIDSON * HUGHESVILLE, MD. WINNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL TAXES, FEES, REGISTRATION, TITLE AND TAGS.

Upcoming "Live" Appearances:

Aug. 3—7: East Coast Sturgis

Aug. 13: Washington County Chapter Bike Show

Aug. 27: Harrison's Custom Cycles Summer Blowout

Sept. 14-18: OC Bike Fest

Oct. 1: Frederick County Chapter Marble Run Party

Do you have an event that the Raffle Bike can appear "Live"?

[Contact us](#) to see if we can make that happen.



MMR-PAC News

Tidbits

In 1894, Hildebrand & WolfmueLLer became the first series production motorcycle in the world.

Chapter Submittals

Did you know that your chapter can submit treasurer reports, event pictures, event flyers, meeting minutes, etc., thru the website? Visit this link for more info: <https://abateofmd.org/chapter-submittals/>

Maryland Legislative Info

Do you need a little assistance with legislative stuff? We have a few resources on our website that may help answer some questions. Take a look: <https://abateofmd.org/md-legislative-help/>

Roadway Hazards

Put this number in your phone: **800-543-2515**—Maryland Statewide Operations Center. ABATE of Maryland, Inc. is committed to helping the biker community keep our roads safe for ALL vehicles, not just motorcycles. Please feel free to use this contact information for the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration to report ALL highway emergencies in Maryland (state, county and local roads) that do not require police assistance. State Highway has agreed to take the calls and pass them on to the appropriate personnel.



On October 10, 2001 ABATE of Maryland, Inc. established a State Political Action Committee called Maryland Motorcycle Riders PAC (MMR-PAC) to fulfill the goal of supporting political events throughout the State. Through the viability and successful activity of the Maryland Motorcycle Riders PAC in the political process, we continue to protect the rights and safety of all motorcyclists.

ABATE of Maryland, Inc. is involved in all aspects of the legislative process whether it be drafting bills, lobbying for a particular outcome for a bill, or working with legislators and other public officials to administratively and/or judicially obtain a positive outcome for motorcycle-related issues in Maryland.

Members are individually active in political campaigns and elections. ABATE of Maryland, Inc. assists the efforts of members by educating legislators regarding motorcycle-related issues. However, due to constraints imposed by Maryland State law, ABATE of Maryland, Inc. is prohibited from financially participating in the campaign process and may not make campaign contributions to candidates. MMR-PAC adds the final component in being fully engaged in campaigns and elections at all levels.

MMR-PAC was created to provide financial support to State legislators who support our views and legislative goals. This is a way for Maryland Motorcyclists to educate elected officials and increase their interest level in motorcycling issues. MMR-PAC seeks to assist our legislative supporters with campaign contributions to assure our mutual continued success in promoting the interests of Maryland motorcycle riders. MMR-PAC has been successful in opening many new doors and solidifying existing strong relationships.

Why Should you Support the MMR-PAC? There is no more exhilarating feeling than backing a winner! Supporting MMR-PAC makes YOU, the contributor, an active participant in the most important political process in a changing state government. Not to be ignored is the fact that the more support MMR-PAC gives to successful candidates, the more motorcyclists' voices will be heard in the halls of the Maryland General Assembly as well as in the Executive Office.

We really need to make MMR PAC a part of our all of our events. Donation jars would be a great start. To make a donation to MMR-PAC, please make a check (no cash donations please) payable to "MMR-PAC" and send it directly to:

Jay Block – MMR-PAC Treasurer
Law Office of Jay Irwin Block, LLC
10451 Mill Run Cir – Suite 400
Owings Mills, MD 21117



Maryland Legislative Update

Tidbits

The automotive manufacturer Volkswagen is the owner of the motorcycle brand Ducati. The group is owned German automotive manufacturer Audi through its Italian subsidiary Lamborghini, which is in turn owned by the Volkswagen Group.

Our Website

Did you know that our website has these functions:

- ◆ Has chapter meeting maps
- ◆ Allows you to join or renew online?
- ◆ Has an event calendar
- ◆ Has forms for chapter submittals?
- ◆ Has a calendar for the raffle bike appearances
- ◆ Has an events flyer page
- ◆ Has a road hazard reporting form

Check out our website:

www.abateofmd.org



Election season is in full swing. We hope that all our members exercise the right to vote. That is the very first step in protecting your rights. Get to know the candidates, talk with them, and let them know where you stand. They may not always agree with you or vote your way, but they need to hear from YOU! Attend a function where the candidates are present. They are everywhere right now, shaking hand and kissing babies. Take a few minutes, introduce yourself, and let them know you are with ABATE. .



Also, with the general election coming up on November 8, 2022, we will be hustling to see what changes might be taking place. We will need to make sure we know who is staying and who is new, and get to know them all. Maryland legislative session will start in January 2023 and we want to hit the ground running. If you need to register, update your information or make any other changes, you must do so by October 18, 2022

We want to hear from our membership regarding bills for 2023. What do you want ABATE to pursue? We will always fight for your right to choose whether or not to wear a helmet. However, what other things are important to YOU? Is it the right-of-way bill, grass clippings on roadways, or some other issue. Let us know. Contact your chapter director or send an email to info@abateofmd.org and let your voice be heard!

2022 Legislative Recap:

- ◆ **SB0745-Helmet Bill:** The Senate JPR Committee never gave this bill an opportunity to come up for a vote. ABATE obtained sponsorship and provided testimony in favor of this bill.
- ◆ **HB 1333-Modified Exhaust—Penalties:** Died in Committee. ABATE provided testimony against this bill.
- ◆ **HB 0007/SB0025-Must Appear:** ABATE helped obtained sponsorship and provided testimony in favor of this bill. This bill passed the Senate unanimously in committee and on the Senate floor. It failed to get a vote in the House Judiciary Committee.
- ◆ **HB0046/SB0104-Emissions—Not Subject to Inspection Fee:** Died in Committee. ABATE provided testimony against this bill.
- ◆ **SB0670-Registration Renewal-Inspection Requirement:** Died in Committee. ABATE provided testimony against this bill.

As you can see, we were able to stop three “bad bills”. However, we were disappointed in the Senate JPR committee and the House Judiciary when they decided to not even bring up our bills for a vote. This is where you come into play. Although we have a dedicated team that roam the halls in Annapolis during the legislative session, we can always use more people. The legislators need to see that we are a large and diverse organization, and that we represent motorcyclist from all over this state. The calls and emails to the committee members are great, but they need to feel our presence, in a big way. Monday nights are a very important part of the process. Part of making your voice heard, is being seen by the legislators. Meet them locally in your own district. Make sure they know you are with ABATE and that you are concerned about legislation that affects motorcyclists. That way, when legislation rolls around and you contact them to relay your position, they remember you and already know who you are.

Please try and make a few Monday Night Lobbying events in Annapolis or maybe attend a committee hearing if possible. We understand that not everyone can make it out all of the time, but the more people they see, the bigger our voice becomes. Remember **YOU are ABATE!** Get out there and **BE ABATE!**

MRF News

June 23, 2022

For Immediate Release



Federal Trade Commission Says Harley-Davidson Illegally Restricted Right to Repair

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced it ordered Harley-Davidson and the maker of Westinghouse generators, MWE Investments, to amend their warranties after the companies allegedly illegally restricted customers’ right to repair.

“Both companies were imposing illegal warranty terms that voided customers’ warranties if they used anyone other than the companies and their authorized dealers to get parts or repairs for their products”

The FTC also alleged that Harley-Davidson failed to fully disclose all the terms of its warranty in a single document, requiring consumers to contact an authorized dealership for full details

The companies are ordered to amend warranty terms, inform customers of their warranty rights, and “direct authorized dealers to remove deceptive display materials, train and monitor employees, and not promote branded parts and dealers over third parties”

The FTC alleges that the actions by the companies harmed consumers and competition in multiple ways, including:

- ◆ Restricting consumers’ choices
- ◆ Costing consumers more money
- ◆ Undercutting independent dealers
- ◆ Reducing resiliency

The vote by the FTC board was unanimous, 5-0.

[To read the full release from the FTC click here:](#)

AMA News

Recognizing AMA Members Who Love to Ride

The AMA LongRider program is your chance to show others that you’re serious about riding your motorcycle. AMA members are invited to earn patches for various mileage milestones.

Mileage awards are available at 10,000, 25,000 and 50,000 annual miles. In addition to the awards, AMA LongRiders will be recognized on the AMA website.

If you don’t get a chance to ride that often, let your miles accumulate for a Lifetime Mileage award at 25,000, 50,000, 100,000, 250,000, 500,000, 750,000 and 1 million miles. Riders who achieve 1 million miles will earn a special AMA LongRider plaque.

[For more info, click here](#)



Member Spotlight

Do you have a member in your chapter that is your most active ABATE Freedom Fighter? That person that is always working those events, selling 50/50’s, volunteers for everything, etc. We would like to know. Please [send us some info](#) about them so we can shine a little light on them for all the work that they do.

ABATE Tags:

Would you like to show the world your support? Get an ABATE tag! Visit the website for more info.

<https://abateofmd.org/abate-of-maryland-inc-tags/>



JOIN ABATE!

If you happen to be reading this newsletter, and you are not an ABATE member, please join! We need all the voices we can get from all over! It’s easy to do through our website: <https://abateofmd.org/join-abate-of-md/>



Sponsor Spotlight

One of our sponsors this year needs no introduction. **The Law Offices of Jay Irwin Block** has supported ABATE year after year. He is a platinum level sponsor this year. Please thank Jay for his continued support.

Become a SPONSOR

Be a sponsor of ABATE of Maryland, Inc. We have various levels available:

- Platinum: \$500 per year
- Gold: \$350 per year
- Silver: \$250 per year
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Each level has a list of benefits of being a sponsor. Check out our website for more info: <https://abateofmd.org/sponsor-forms/>



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