



January 2023
Issue 2023-1

ABATE of Maryland, Inc.



Dedicated to Freedom of the Road
and Responsible Motorcycle
Legislation

ROLLIN' FOR YOUR RIGHTS

WINTER is here! Love it or hate it, old man winter is upon us. For some that means bike upgrades, bike storage, or cold weather riding. Whatever your preference, clean it up a little and make sure everything is in working order. Spring will be here, EVENTUALLY, and you will be riding again, or at least more often! In the mean time, take a few minutes to get ready for the Maryland General Assembly 2023. It will be a quick 90 days, and with all those new legislators, it should be a fun ride!

Even if you are not a "political" person, you may want to follow the legislative updates. There are a lot of things headed down the pike, and most are probably not going to be good! Having said that we all need to renew our commitment to ABATE, no matter how large or small. We all know those 24/7 Freedom Fighters. They are who we rely on to keep track of things. They cannot do this alone! Offer to make a few calls, write a letter or email, get to know your representatives, or just tag along to a Monday Night Lobby event. Maybe this is the year you tell the chapter director or legislative rep that you want to be more involved.

If you don't have the time to devote to "political" involvement, maybe offer to lead a ride, plan an event, or just offer to sell 50/50 tickets at an event. Winter is a great time to start planning. Events don't just happen. There needs to be a little bit of planning to make the event great. Not sure how to go about it? Talk to your director and see if you can get paired up with someone that can show you the ropes. None of us knew how to do these things until we got involved and learned a little along the way. Some of us learned the hard way, and have already made a lot of the mistakes. Don't be afraid to step up and help.

YOU are ABATE.



ABATE Products

We still have a few t-shirts left over from our sales at OC Bike Week. They are a stone blue and have a great graphic on the back with the saying "Living Life Behind Bars" & ABATE of Maryland, Inc. The State logo is on the front left chest. We did a limited screen print to see how it would go. We got a pretty good response, so we are looking forward to increasing our products line.

What does everyone want? Do we need hats, long sleeved T's, sweat shirts.....? Let us know what you think. We can't do it all at once, but we need to build up some inventory so you can be ABATE.

A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments

Inside this issue

Directors Corner	2
Words from the Chairman.....	3
Chapter News	4
Membership Secretary Report	8
MMR-PAC News	9
Maryland Legislative Update...	10
MRF News.....	11
AMA News	11
OP ED	12
Sponsor Spotlight	15

Special points of interest

- Upcoming Events
- Roadway Hazards

State Director's Corner

ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

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FB Page

<https://www.facebook.com/ABATEOfMarylandInc>



I have jumped in with both feet and am trying to wrangle this beast called ABATE. Wow, there are a lot of moving parts. I am so fortunate to be surrounded by quite a few directors & E Board members that are always ready to discuss our next moves. Corporate paperwork, bank accounts, insurance, office maintenance, you name it. It is all a part of the job and we all do the best we can to get through it so we can get to the real nuts and bolts, protecting our rights as motorcyclists.

I have come to one big realization about ABATE of Maryland, Inc. We may all have different issues that we would like to pursue, but at the end of the day, we all want to do the right thing. That is what is key. No matter what you feel about another person or idea, they are generally trying to make ABATE better. That should be a goal for all of us. ABATE is about the membership. Without them, we are nothing. We all need to step back and reflect on why we joined ABATE. It is not about dollar and cents, it is about PEOPLE and FREEDOM. What is the price of that freedom? Is it cents per day, dollars per year, or names on a list? In this world, we will not all agree on everything. That is just the nature of the beast. Different people see things from different perspectives. That is actually what makes it great. If we let the dust settle, listen to all sides, and collectively make a decision, we all are better for it in the end.

We all should be asking ourselves what we can do for ABATE. Are you the guy in the meeting causing a disturbance, or are you speaking up for something you believe in? It is a fine line, and I am sure we all have been on both sides from time to time. Get past the side issues and get to the real heart of the matter. ABATE needs YOU & YOU need ABATE! If we fight alone, we are a very small voice. Collectively, we have a far reaching, loud voice. We have members in every part of this state. We come from all walks of life. Some ride, some don't. Some are blue collar, some white collar, some no collar, and some work at home in their PJ's. The point is, we all have some love of motorcycles, whether we are the rider, the passenger, the future enthusiast, or the old guy that just tinkers with stuff.

Be the ABATE ambassador. Carry membership applications, with you, wear ABATE gear, setup a table at local motorcycle shop and talk ABATE with visitors. Convince other motorcyclists to join our growing ranks. We are the largest motorcyclist rights organization in Maryland. We are the voice of motorcyclists in Annapolis and beyond. We are called a "grass roots" organization for a reason. Our work starts at the ground floor. Yes, there are only a handful that testify at hearings, but that is just the tip of a very large iceberg. We need the work of many boots on the ground to get our message out there. Any work that happens in your hometown, with your local representatives, helps strengthen our voice. When the delegates and senators greet us and know us as ABATE, we know that our message is getting out there.

Looking ahead to the new year, do what you can to be ABATE. Do you live in a "blue" or a "red" district? It really does not matter. Blue or red, they need to hear our voice and opinions. They may not always agree with us, but they should always know where we stand. They cannot know where we stand unless we take the time to talk with them about our position on any given issue. Get to know what issues are important in your district & let us know. If we have the time and resources, sometimes we can provide support or at least an alternate viewpoint that maybe they had not considered. If they view us as constituents and not adversaries, we have made a friend.

At the end of the day, **WE ARE ALL ABATE**. We love motorcycling and **WE are the Freedom Fighters!**

Ken Eaton
State Executive Director

Words from the Chairman of the Board

Greetings,

Well, 2022 is in the books. Janis and I are thankful for all our blessings, but like a lot of you the past year was not one to remember fondly. ABATE of Maryland picked up some new members, gave away a beautiful new H-D motorcycle and our local chapters throughout Maryland sponsored some nice rides and parties. Sadly, we didn't fare as well in the halls of the State Legislature in 2022. We, along with all Maryland citizens were literally locked out of the House of Delegates and our attempts to pass a "Must Appear" Bill and modify the State's helmet regulations were defeated. We lost several key allies in the Senate in last year's election. We were able to ward off a Bill that would have forced all Marylanders to fork over \$14 per vehicle registered to fund "electric vehicle infrastructure". Unfortunately, if previous precedents are maintained, this wealth-transfer money grab will invariably be introduced again this year. There will be many new faces in both the House and Senate this year and it will be our job to introduce them to ABATE of Maryland and our mission of "Freedom of the Road". We are not sure if we will be able to re-gain access to the Md. House of Delegates but the 2023 session starts on Jan. 11, 2023. I hope all of you had a Blessed Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year's. I hope you were re-energized by your family gatherings and I look forward to ALL of us working together this year to make motorcycling a safer and more rewarding experience for all of us. See You in Annapolis.

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



ABATE of Maryland, Inc.
ST. MARY'S CHAPTER
IN ASSOCIATION WITH MEAN OLE MUTHA NATURE
Presents Their 2023
Blue Balls and Boobs
Poker Run
Saturday, 28 January

\$15.00/Hand
12:00 NOON
from
TOOTS
23971 MERVILL DEAN RD
HOLLYWOOD, MD 20636
301-373-2955



Last Hand Out:
1 PM
Last hand In:
4 PM

Year Patches will be available for those that have done the ride before. New Frosty Riders will receive the Year Patch and the Blue Balls and Boobs Patch. Patches are given to those on the ride ONLY.

Final Stop: Extra Card Draw and 50/50 Winner Announcement

For more information please contact
Brandi "Kupcak" Trexler
Email: abate.somd.events@gmail.com

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Check out our website for more 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/City Chapter News

Director: Jay Block

Meetings: Bullwinkles

1660 Ingleside Avenue

Gwynn Oak, MD 21207

We have a director and a meeting location. Lets see if we can get things going!

Calvert County Chapter News

Happy New Year- from the Calvert County Chapter. Yesterday we had a nice turnout for a New Year's Day Ride with 8 riders and 3 passengers. This ride has been going on for many years with only a one-year delay due to the pandemic. The weather was sunny and a group of us met up and rode to Cobb Island where we enjoyed a nice lunch at Captain John's Crab House. The trip was about 100 miles.



We were disappointed that the weather did not cooperate with us in December where we had planned to again ride in North Beach Christmas Parade. This event draws many families to the North Beach Boardwalk to watch the many cool cars, bikes and floats that participate in the parade. In years past our chapter has ridden our motorcycles in the parade and tossed candy to the kids and we have even decorated and entered floats. See pictures from past years.

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](#).

Legislative Tidbits 15 Years ago (2008)

ABATE helped get the **Right-Of-Way Violation Penalties** bill passed, increasing the fine to \$1000 and a 180 day loss of license.

ABATE assisted with the legal definition of a motorcycle.

Motorcycle tag size standardization- Until this bill passed Maryland was one of only 3 states which did not have the standard sized motorcycle tag. Ours was oversized and did not fit stock brackets on motorcycles. This bill reduced the size of our tags to come in line with 47 other states.

Auxiliary Lighting: This bill, which passed in the first attempt, allowed certain accent lighting on motorcycles to increase nighttime visibility, was well received, and ABATE was commended for bringing the safety aspects of this issue to the General assembly



Calvert County Chapter News (continued)

Update your Information

Have you moved, changed phone numbers, got a new email address, etc.? We need to know so we can stay in touch. Please contact Joel Jones or your Chapter Director and give them any new updates.

Joel Jones

State Membership Secretary

abatemembership1@verizon.net

Find your Chapter Director [here](#):

Not a member>

Join here:

<https://abateofmd.org/join-abate-of-md/>

OR

Fill out our online form to update your info:

https://abateofmd.org/membership_changes/



We have a few events on our calendar for 2023:

1/21/23- After Holidays Party (American Legion Post 206, 8 PM to 11 PM)

3/31/23- Friday Night Fundraiser Dinner (American Legion Post 206)

4/29/23- Scrabble Run (beginning at Chesapeake Market & Deli)

9/24/23- Calvert Chapter Memorial Ride

We have ideas for upcoming chapter rides and trips and look forward to more members joining us and sharing their ideas. We meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at American Legion Post 206 in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland at 7 P.M.

Carroll County Chapter News

Carroll County Chapter

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

Location: Open to suggestions

We are calling out to all Carroll County members. We would love to see your smiling faces! Contact [Shelli](#) if you have any ideas for a meeting location or even if a different day / time would be better for most. Your voice can't be heard if we don't speak up. Let's get together and plan a few things for the new year!



Charles County Chapter News

Upcoming ABATE Events

**St. Mary's County Chapter
Blue Balls and Boob Poker Run**
Saturday, January 28, 2023
See flyer in this newsletter for more info.

**Calvert County Chapter
Scrabble Run**
April 29, 2023
See flyer in this newsletter for more info.

**Mid-Shore Chapter
Chili Cook-Off**
March 11, 2023
Contact Tammy Lenske for more details. 410-924-2977

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

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. The next newsletter deadline will be March 31, 2023. If you have events for the Spring & Summer, get the details to us ASAP so we can publish the flyers and info.



SCRABBLE RUN

ABATE of Calvert County

Registration begins at 10:00 AM
Chesapeake Grille & Market
7150 Lake Shore Drive, Rosehaven,
MD
Last bike out at 11:00 AM
Ends at **Happy Harbor**
533 Deale Road, Deale, MD
Last bike in 5 PM
Registration fee \$15
Collect scrabble tiles at each stop.

**Highest word score wins \$\$
50/50 drawing**

Contact Ken Sawyer for
more information
kvsawyer@yahoo.com
410.474.9276

For other ABATE of Maryland events, see www.abateofmd.org/events
Join us at www.abateofmd.org/join-abate-of-md

Mid-Shore Chapter News

Ole man winter is here, and riding has slowed a bit. There have been a few great days to get out there and dust things off and many of us have been taking advantage of that when we can. Our chapter has ended the year by getting a Event coordinator, along with an Assistant Event Coordinator. Thank you Tammy and Jean for stepping up and making sure we get things planned for 2023! Our calendar is shaping up and we hope to publish a list of 2023 events soon.

We are also working on some sort of memorial for our members that have passed away over the years. We have a list that dates back from 1990 thru 2022. We would really like to dig a little deeper and see if we can check back to at least the early 1980's and make sure that we have not forgotten anyone. For those of us that have been around a day or two, the chapter was originally called "Tri-County" before it became Mid-Shore. If you have any names that you think should be added to the list, please reach out to us (abatemidshore@gmail.com) or contact one of our chapter officers. We are hoping to get as complete a list as possible and then we will develop a plan for preparation of a memorial book of some sort and then hopefully plan an annual event where we can remember those members. A big thank you to Brenda and Tammy for volunteering to start the committee for this important project.

In addition, we are taking orders for chapter sweatshirts. They will be black, either zippered or pull-over, will have the "Living Life Behind Bars" graphic on the back, and the chapter logo on the front. Pricing is as follows:

The cost includes the hoodie, screen printing, tax, etc. There will be no additional fees. This is a Gildan Heavy Blend, 50/50 cotton / polyester hoodie. We must get an order for 24 pieces total before we can get them printed, so get your order in now. Contact Dawn, the Mid-Shore chapter Products Director for more information.

Size	Zippered	Pullover
S, M, L, XL	\$41.00	\$37.00
2XL	\$43.00	\$41.00
3XL	\$46.00	\$43.00

We are planning our Chili Cook-off party for March 2023. You have plenty of time to try a new recipe or tweak an old one. Start clanging those pots and pans and come up with a winner! This event is a great time to start chasing off the winter blues and look forward to better riding weather!

We are also looking forward to a few of us going to the ABATE of Pennsylvania Legislative and Leadership Seminar in January. Some of us have already bought tickets and booked our rooms. There is a link provided in this newsletter for more information. Click on it and make plans to meet us there!

Lastly, we are starting to plan the Eastern Shore—DelMarVa version of the Frederick County Chapter Marble Run. We are looking for approximately 25 stops and any other businesses that may want to be just sponsors. We will be drafting a booklet and getting more information out this winter. We are hoping to include stops from the top of the bay / Cecil County area (maybe even sneak over in southeastern Pennsylvania), down to the Eastern Shore of Virginia, all of Delaware, as well as all of the Eastern Shore Counties in Maryland. Let us know your favorite places. Restaurants, bars, bike shops, knife shops, leather stores, any place that might be able to work with us on being a stop along the way. We will provide the shaker, a few brief instructions, and a format for the ad in the book. This works for everyone. The business gets a little more traffic through their door, ABATE gets their name out there a little bit more, and our members get a few more excuses to get together and ride!

Our calendar has been drafted for 2023, but many of the dates have not been confirmed. We will provide additional information as soon as we firm things up a bit.

Raffle Bike News

The 2023 Raffle Bike is in the works! We are working closely with dealerships, seeing what may be available. Stay tuned for an announcement.



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<https://abateofmd.org/join-abate-of-md/>



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.

Membership Secretary Report

Ok. Let me step up onto my soap box for a minute. The other day I was asked "What are you guys doing about the helmet bill?" This was from a current ABATE member. Now I could handle this several different ways: I could take offense and say the same thing back at him and ask being part of ABATE what are **YOU** doing to help yourself and possibly alienate him. Let's face it in today's world it's so easy to say the right thing the wrong way. I could try to engage in an educational conversation about all the things ABATE is trying to accomplish and how he could stay informed and engaged and hope he would listen. Explain to him it's not a "you guys" thing but an all of us thing. Or I could cop out and say that's not my department I'm just the membership secretary. The conversation option was what I chose. Of course, it only works if I know a little of what I'm talking about and am convincing. I'm sure this type of scenario happens to a lot of us. This is why when it comes up in the non-member situation, we need to be ready to respond to educate. I recently was with a riding group. After hearing some conversations, I found some of the topics were exactly what ABATE is addressing at the state level. Once again, the conversation of education became useful in signing up members. Of course, you will always have critics in the crowd which is why we also need to be diplomatic and patient. You never know when the opportunity will occur to catch an ear so we have to be ready. Thomas Jefferson wrote "*A properly functioning democracy depends on an informed electorate*" This is how we keep the members we have and gain new ones—through education of our cause. So, during these cold months while you're having indoor gatherings, try and start a conversation of education about ABATE. You never know who is in the crowd. Thank you for listening. Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and A Great New Year!

Respectfully,
Your Humble Membership Secretary
Joel Jones

Favorite Rides

Do you have a favorite ride or route? Is there a road that you just love. It can be a short stretch or a long haul.

How about a great place to stop and stretch your legs, get some grub or relax for a few minutes?

Lets compile a list of favorite spots, routes, etc.

**NOT ALL
WHO
WANDER
ARE
LOST**



MMR-PAC News

Tidbits

BMW was the first manufacturer to patent and use telescopic forks on its R12 in 1932 – but it doesn't use the system on its big motorcycles today.

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.



What is PAC? Well, the MMR-PAC is the Maryland Motorcycle Riders Political Action Committee. PAC helps by supporting state legislators that support our legislative goals. PAC has been successful in the past in opening new doors and strengthening our relationships. By supporting PAC, you become an active participant in the political process. PAC helps our voice to be heard in the halls of the Maryland General Assembly.

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

Phone (410) 356-6555, (410) 363-0770
Fax (410) 356-1439
Email jblock@jayirwinblock.com

ABATE of Maryland, Inc. Membership Application / Renewal

Please print or type your information clearly

☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Address Change

Chapter: _____

Membership Type:

Annual Individual: \$25 Annual Couple: \$45 Annual Junior: \$15

Lifetime Individual: \$250 Lifetime Couple: \$450

Sustaining: \$100

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, state, Zip code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

2nd Name (Couple): _____

Registered Voter: ☐ Election District: _____

Occupation or skills that may assist ABATE: _____

Applicant signature: _____

I agree to comply with ABATE rules for sanctioned motorcycle activities

Please complete and take to a Chapter Director or contact Joel Jones, State Membership Secretary at abatemembership1@verizon.net

Maryland Legislative Update

Tidbits

The Daimler Reitwagen is widely considered as the world's first true motorcycle. **Gottlieb Daimler** is often referred to as "the father of the motorcycle" because of this invention and it was his son, Paul, who rode it for the first time in November 1885.

ABATE & the "InterWeb"

We have a presence out there in cyberspace! For those that cruise the interweb and like to check out the options, we have a few:

Website: www.abateofmd.org

FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ABATEofMarylandInc>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ABATEofMaryland>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/15933720/>

Contact us other ways:

State office tel: 410-263-9185

Email: info@abateofmd.org

Website form: <https://abateofmd.org/contact-us/>



The Maryland Legislative Session starts on January 11, 2023 with a swearing in of the Members. This will be the 445th session of the Maryland General Assembly. Session will last 90 days, ending on April 10, 2023. There will be thousands of bills to be heard, testified on and some voted on. This being the first year after a gubernatorial election, session will be challenging. Committees will be changing with a lot of new faces in Annapolis this year.

ABATE will be working on the front lines and behind the scenes, tracking legislation, lobbying, staying in touch with our friends and reaching out to new delegates and senators. Our agenda for the year will include the following:

- ♦ **Helmet Bill:** ABATE has always advocated for **FREEDOM of CHOICE**. We want to give adult riders the choice regarding wearing a helmet. The American Motorcyclist Association and the Motorcycle Riders Foundation agree that mandatory helmet laws do nothing to prevent crashes and both support voluntary helmet usage. It is vital have the knowledge and experience to possibly avoid a crash altogether. Our position has always been that there is no replacement for education, experience, and training when it comes to motorcycle safety. Currently, 32 states have either no helmet law or only require it for certain ages (under 21, age varies by state).
- ♦ **Must Appear:** We will continue to fight to require a court appearance for those that cause an accident that results in serious injury or death of another. There should be no option for paying a fine and avoiding court if you have taken a life. 14 years ago, we were able to pass a law establishing that if a person fails to yield the right-of-way in violation of specified provisions of law and the violation contributes to an accident that results in the death or serious bodily injury of another, the person could be subject to a specified fine and the Motor Vehicle Administration is authorized to suspend the person's license for a specified period of time; etc. However, we have since learned that without the mandatory court appearance, many times a serious violation is either never issued or the person that caused death of another is able to pre-pay a fine and never have to appear in court and face the families and friends of the injured / deceased.
- ♦ **Grass Clippings:** To quote the famous comedian Ron White, "it's not **THAT** the wind is blowin', it's **WHAT** the wind is blowin'". When grass gets cut along the side of a road, many times it contains more than just grass. There could be sand, gravel, stones, broken glass, shredded metal, etc. When that area gets mowed and blown onto the roadway surface, there could be problems. It is time for Maryland to address this issue.

We will also be tracking any legislation that comes up that could affect motorcyclists'. That is one of our biggest challenges. Sometimes a bill gets presented that is not motorcycle friendly and we must be prepared to challenge these as well. We are trying out a software called Policy Engage, through a joint cooperation with the MRF. This should assist us in getting out the calls to action as soon as we can.

If we are allowed to "roam the halls" this year, we will once again hold our Monday Night Lobbying efforts. This is a great time to meet the legislators, get a glimpse of how the General Assembly works and be a part of the that ABATE Voice!



WWW.ABATEOFMD.ORG

MRF & AMA

Many people ask "What is the MRF". The simple answer is, they are the Federal level MRO. They protect our rights in Washington DC, and assist all over the country.

However, they are much more than that. Over the past few years, we have seen the MRF & the AMA working hard, not only on motorcycle rights issues, but working on making sure that motorcycling in general has a voice and has a support structure. However, it is a two way street. They need our support, and we need their support.

As an example, not long ago, we were asked by the MRF to send the US-Maryland Congressional Representatives emails from ABATE of Maryland, Inc. This is the very thing that we ask our membership to do every time we come across legislation that concerns motorcyclists'. It ended up being a very quick, two round volley of emails, urging them to add their signatures to a letter from the House Motorcycle Caucus to the NHSTA, regarding self-driving cars. I am happy to report that we were able to convince Rep. Any Harris to add his signature to the letter. Although it was fantastic to get a Maryland name to sign on to that letter, it showed me that we also need more work on the rest of the Maryland representatives. There are eight congressional districts in Maryland, and when we reached out, only one responded. Although some have told me that those are pretty good odds, I think we can do better.

However, as I mentioned, the connection is a two way street. This year, ABATE of Maryland, Inc. will be utilizing "Policy Engage" software through the MRF. They offer this to state MRO's, to assist with calls to action about legislation in their own state.

And don't forget about the AMA. They have always been open to discussions about what we need in Maryland. They have testified on bills in Annapolis, alongside our ABATE Freedom Fighters. We look forward to working hand-in-hand with both the AMA & MRF on issues relating to motorcyclists both at the state and federal levels. We run into the AMA & MRF representatives all over.

If you get a chance, consider supporting both the AMA & the MRF by joining. We are all working together to make sure that motorcycling can be enjoyed now and in the future.

Upcoming MRF Events:

Bikers Inside the Beltway 2023

May 15 & 16, 2023

39th Annual Meeting of the Minds

September 21—24, 2023

Harrisburg, PA

Upcoming AMA Events:

Hangover Trail Ride & Hangover Hare Scramble

January 7 & 8, 2023

Charlotte Hall, MD



Member Spotlight

Do you have a member that is always there, volunteering, working events, leading rides, or just being that ABATE Ambassador? Let us know! We want to shine a little light on them!

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 only \$25 per year per individual. Couples are only \$45 per year! It's easy to join through our website:

<https://abateofmd.org/join-abate-of-md/>



Other Events

Baltimore—Timonium International Motorcycle Show

February 10th - 12th, 2023

PA ABATE L&L

January 27, 28 & 29, 2023

Red Lion Hotel

4751 Lindle Road

Harrisburg, PA 17111

Seminar Registration: \$85 per person

Hotel Room reduced rates:
\$90 single / \$90 Double + fees

Room reservation deadline:
January 6, 2023

Lets book a block of rooms & get some Maryland ABATE chapters represented at L&L!

Any other events nearby that are not ABATE events ? Let us know.

We reserve the right to accept or refuse any event information. These are provided for the benefit of our membership.

As many ABATE members know, my mom passed away on Nov 30th, 2022, after a very brief illness. My Mom was a fantastic lady, and thought she had set up everything to take care of her estate and her funeral in the event of her passing. Lessons learned from the passings of my father, my sister and my brother. She had her Last Will and Testament, her Advance Directive, Her Power of Attorney, her Living Will and gravesite all created and bought, filed and paid for. However, as I subsequently found out, her pre planning was not adequate.

A little background:

My mom got diagnosed with COPD and Emphysema approx. 4 weeks before she passed. She went into the hospital for 2.5 days due to severe difficulty breathing. She signed herself out against medical advice to attend my cousins wedding 3 weeks before Turkey Day. She got released with O2 therapy, started the rounds of doc appointments in which she was finally told about the Emphysema, but was *never told it was terminal* by the myriad of doctors she saw. My daughter and I went with her to her doc appointments and were present at all discussions because my mom was forgetting things so in order to be proactive, we went to assist. Between the first hospitalization before the wedding and when I took her to the emergency dept on Turkey Day, was a span of 3 weeks.

Current Situation: aka Lessons I learned

I assumed Power of Attorney for my mom and followed her Advance Directive on Nov. 25th, 2022 when I called the Ambo to transport her to the Emergency Dept of Carroll co Gen Hospital around noon or a little after. The reason we came to that decision was she rapidly declined in the space of 3 days. I took her to see her GP on Monday, Nov 21. He checked her over, attempted to assist her with the main issue she was having which was not being able to sleep. Sent her home with more meds and that was it.

Between Monday and Thursday she didn't sleep, cognition declined and she refused to go back to doc or er. Her blood pressure plummeted hard Thursday am which preempted me calling the ambo. I had her transported and discussed with er doc her advance directive, starting the power of atty stuff. ***We both decided it was within the terms she had set because NO WHERE before was she told she was terminal so I was following her wishes.*** She had a codicil in her advance directive that if she was terminal; she was to be allowed a natural death with no heroics, machines, tube feeding etc....

She was intubated and put on a ventilator due to her O2 sats which were 30, and her BP which was something like 20/38...very, very low. Of course, I had to sign all sorts of papers n electronic papers to do this. She was intubated on the ventilator and feeding tube for 5.5 days. They weaned her off the ventilator – she came to and said she wanted to pass. No more “torture” as she described the care. We honored her wishes and I had to sign her into Hospice care. She passed away a day and a half later.

Lesson 1: Power of Attorney ceases the moment that the person passes away in the State of Md.

During my moms' hospital stay, for the week she was in the hospital, as Power of Atty, I was able to pay her household expenses and some of the medical bills she had accrued. Once someone assumes power of atty, to write checks on that persons' account, one must write the check, sign YOUR name and write POA after your signature.

Continued next page:





Things Learned from my Mothers' Death (Continued)

Lesson 2: Unless designees are ON bank accounts and Life Ins policies, prior to a persons' death, access to accounts and money is blocked.

Once she passed, access to funds were and still are totally blocked until the estate can be opened, an estate account can be opened and funds transferred which takes time. We got caught between a rock and a hard place with the expenses of her death, funeral expenses, cost of casket, cost of opening the grave for her burial. Only silver lining in that aspect is when my dad passed away back in 86, before he died, he and mom got a double vault and the vault had to be exposed and top opened for her casket to be lowered into. All graveside burials in Maryland at established Graveyards, have to have concrete vaults for caskets to be interred in. She had a couple small life ins policies but since no designee was stated on them, they have to go into estate fund.

Lesson 3: Death is expensive.

Funeral homes definitely make out: they're the only winners in Death; however, they do provide a needed service that definitely makes the loss of a loved one a little bit more bearable.

- Caskets cost between 900.00 onto sky high ridiculous amounts. Vaults are an additional expense:
- Embalming is approx. 1000.00 depending on where your loved one is taken.
- Death certificates: Funeral homes take care of getting Death Certs; Costs are 15 for first one, 20 each additional one – Minimum required for dealing with all associated issues of a persons' death. Recommended 10. 195.00 for 10 of them
- Obit: minimum of 150.00
- Services and place to hold funeral costs too – Just dealing with the funeral parlor the costs were approx. 8000.00 for basic service.
- Opening a pre-existing, pre-paid for gravesite aka interment spot. That was just under 2000.00 So 10,000.....right off the bat –
- Place to hold Wake and costs associated with that - depends on your pocket:

Remember those bank accounts? My mom had enough money in them to cover most of the costs of the funeral at the funeral home.... Couldn't access any of it!

Lesson 4: Opening the Estate

All sorts of paperwork has to be filed by Executor of the Estate and costs associated with that. So far 250.00 out of pocket – just for paperwork and \$37.00 for 2 dump runs:

Bills: Still have to pay household expenses and bills accrued by my Mom. But again, no access to her funds: and, of course, all this happened right before Christmas and New year holiday so that is delaying the ability to open stuff.

Lesson 5: Social Security payments - My mom lived all 30 days but 4 hours and 49 minutes of November 22 - Social Security takes back payment for that month since she did not live the full month: so the 2300 she got for working all those years, the feds get to fucking keep.... Retirement payments: all have to go into her Estate fund to be divvied out when the estate is settled which could be anywhere from 1-3 years from now. The company does have to release her retirement funds to the estate. Only silver lining there – but again, no access to pay for her debts.

Continued next page:

Chapter Challenges

How about stirring up a little friendly competition? Should it be a membership drive, a mileage challenge, most members attending Monday Night Lobbying, most creative event, best percentage of participation at another chapters event, pool or corn hole tournament?

Think outside the box and come up with something that will get people involved and tell us what you think.

Lesson 6: Bills still rolling in and all have to get settled before beneficiaries can receive anything

Lesson 7: The Journey continues:

Now I've got to inventory all her possessions, Clean out her house, get rid of items family doesn't want to have or keep via various means like estate sale of possessions, auction etc....– *and my mom had a hording problem*. All costs associated with cleaning, debris removal, etc..... can be put against the estate, along with bills paid etc.... but need to be paid for up front and prior to recovering expenses however, it's gonna be a nightmare! Costs for dumpsters range from 300 to 500 for just the bin. Doesn't include the cost of tonnage: or the time spent cleaning, sorting, setting up for pickup if donated, setting up for auction or estate sale etc.....

******If you take nothing else with you after reading this please make sure you do the following:**

- Set up your estate with your loved ones' best interests at heart:
- Have the people you want to take care of you and your stuff after you are gone put on your bank accounts as Pay on death recipients:
- Have your life ins policies designated for specific people or your executor for your estate.
- HAVE ALL IMPORTANT DOCS AND POLICIES ETC... IN ONE PLACE – AND LET THAT PERSON KNOW WHERE IT IS. I had to play hunt and peck to find the items I needed – and am still searching for a few items too:
- UPDATE YOUR WILL: if you haven't done it in years – my mom did her last one in 2018 however, life changed, both of her grandkids got married and now have families: the way it was written is going to present a problem to all cause her will states her estate is to be split equally between the 4 beneficiaries: and one of her beneficiaries is going to have problems – her great granddaughter, because in her will she definitively stated that half of what this child is to get has to go into a secondary education fund – the question then becomes, what if she doesn't go to college – who gets the freaking money? I sure as hell don't want the state of Maryland to benefit at my granddaughters' expense.

DEATH AND ESTATE AND TAX LAWS change –

The Md Legislature loves screwing people as yall well know.

Make sure your Will is up to date and current with applicable tenets and laws!!!!!!

In closing: do your best to not make a nightmare for those left behind.

Shelli McLane
Carroll Co ABATE Director



Sponsor Spotlight

Become a SPONSOR

Our sponsorship options are changing. Please call the State Office at 410-263-9185 for details.



Our trailer is getting spruced up. All of the old graphics have been removed and we are in the process of getting new wraps. We are also performing some general maintenance so we can breath a little more life into it. We will have space on the trailer for sponsors! The rear door and side door spots are available, along with various other locations! Contact [Ken Eaton](#) directly to discuss sponsorship options, forms, etc. Stay tuned for more info and pics of the refreshed trailer.

ABATE of Maryland, In.

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