

ABATE gets the job done; Lobby Day brings over 500 to the Capitol

Members and supporters of ABATE of WI Inc, got the job done March 4th in Madison with over 500 bikers in attendance looking for support for their 2008 legislative agenda. Bikers started to show up at the Capitol as early as 8am and didn't leave until the job was done. One hundred percent of our legislators offices were reached and everyone that attended should be congratulated on a job well done. Once again, ABATE of WI and its supporters showed that grassroots lobbying can get the job done in Wisconsin.

ABATE of WI Inc 2008 legislative agenda includes amending parts of recently passed legislation that was intended to enhance penalties for right of way violations that cause serious bodily injury or death to a motorcyclist and make motorcycle awareness such as ABATE's Share the Road program mandatory for all violators. Since this law has been in effect for more than a year and we haven't seen any changes, this is one of our top priorities. Also promoted in Madison were our suggestions for a state fix to the federal Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPPA) which currently allows insurance companies to discriminate against motorcyclists by denying health insurance coverage simply because they choose to ride a motorcycle. A great amount of interest was shown by our legislators on these issues.

ABATE members and supporters also took this opportunity to re-introduce themselves to our legislators and let them know our stance on recent helmet recommendations by the NTSB and the overwhelming need for crash avoidance solutions not safer crashing. Information on our Share the Road motorcycle awareness program and our new anti-impaired riding program was also given to legislators to give examples of the tireless efforts of our organization and its members.

Pictures of the event are available on our website www.abatewis.org and again thanks to all in attendance that made this a great event. For more information or to join ABATE of WI please go to our website or call 1-800-386-4442.

One thing that was not part of our lobby day but should be kept under scrutiny by motorcycle rights organizations is the recent actions of USDOT Secretary Mary Peters. In letters sent out to Congress, she is requesting that the wording in the grant section of the most recent transportation bill would be changed so that states would have the ability to use the money set aside in the grant program (WI has received over \$100,000 in each of the last two years) that was intended for motorcycle training an awareness and instead use it for the promotion of motorcycle helmet use. This is money that motorcyclist's have fought long and hard to have included so that the availability of rider training courses would improve and would also improve the amount of motorcycle awareness programs which if not for ABATE of WI, would be almost nonexistent in our state. It makes you start to wonder what exactly government officials can be thinking.

I hope these updates are helpful to everyone, and I'd like to thank Preacher for helping me keep people informed. If you have any questions or comments, please contact our state office or write me personally at pubrel@abatewis.org. Until next month...Ride Free



Picture taken from 3rd floor window of Capitol by a staffer

2008 MICHIGAN DATES
MOTORCYCLE

SWAP MEETS

Jan 27 **LANSING** • Lansing Center
 Feb. 24 **DETROIT** • **Rock Financial Showplace - NOVI** New Venue!
 Mar. 9 **FLINT** • Perani Arena & Event Center
 Mar. 30 **GRAND RAPIDS** • The DeltaPlex
 Apr. 6 **Cancelled**
 Apr. 20 **BIRCH RUN** • Birch Run Expo Center
 Oct. 5 **GRAND RAPIDS** • The DeltaPlex
 Oct. 19 **BIRCH RUN** • Birch Run Expo Center
 Oct. 26 **DETROIT** • **Rock Financial Showplace - NOVI** New Venue!

Buy or Sell • New or Used • Bikes, Parts, Apparel, Etc.
 Visit online for entry forms, maps, photos, info...
www.motorcycleswap.com
1-800-968-4242

Viet Nam Vets M/C WI, Inc. 24th Annual


Summer Twister
 July 24th-27th, 2008
 Wildlife Refuge Campground
www.wildlifecampgrounds.com Birnamwood, WI (715)449-3617

\$10,000
IN CASH DRAWINGS
For advance ticket holders only.
 Great Bands - Over 30 Vendors
 FREE Beer, Soda, Food

Saturday
 -Parade
 -POW MIA Ceremony (Noon)
 -Ride In Bike Show
 -Bike Games
 -Adult Entertainment (Night)
 -Fireworks & Bonfires

FREE CAMPING
 Starting Thursday at Noon
 Advance Tickets:\$60 Donation Tickets at Gate:\$75 Donation
 Current Military with ID:\$30 Donation at Gate

For More Info: (715)873-3408 or (920)452-4804
www.vnmvme-wi.org WIVNVMC@AOL.COM



 Good call.

Advanced tickets available at
 Doc's H-D in Shawno and Riders Depot in Wausau