

From the desk of ABATE of Wisconsin's PR Guy

Apathy; lack of feeling, want of passion or emotion. This word may not be exclusive to bikers, as I see a great amount of it hiding out in every corner of our society today. Personally, I will shout till I'm hoarse and write 'till my fingers bleed before I let anyone take my freedoms away. Now, does this mean that unless you're standing on a soapbox letting all bikers know what gross injustices are lurking in the shadows you're apathetic? I sure hope not. Maybe we should chalk up most bikers' apparent indifference to their freedoms and safety to today's society. A society that has made blame shifting an art form and taken away all individual responsibility away. A society that lets insurance companies and lawyers dictate legislation. Over two hundred years ago Ben Franklin wrote "those who are willing to give up freedom for security deserve neither freedom nor security" but it seems today everyone is more than willing to give up their basic freedoms so they don't have "stress" about everything. Can't life just be simpler? Does anyone really know when to say enough is enough? How long should we wait for the constant infringements on our way of life to go away? I hope 2012 is the year you chose to rise up and take control of your destiny. Let's show everyone that bikers' are not apathetic, we were just waiting until we got really pissed off to start shouting "enough is enough". Having to follow every right of way violation case to see justice, years of theft of motorcycle safety program monies, and insurance legislation that leaves us in the cold should be enough to get you shouting.

Wisconsin bikers will be given the chance to let their legislators know how they feel about some of the recent issues facing them when ABATE of WI hosts a lobby day on January 24th, 2012. Buses will descend upon our Capitol from all corners of the state filled with bikers that care about their rights. We have seen over five hundred ABATE members and supporters join us in most recent years and we'd be honored if you'd join us. ABATE of WI will have position papers available to take to your legislators and will even accompany you on your journey if you'd like. We have just completed training over fifty new members to take on leadership roles at the Capitol. Many meetings have already been set up to ease congestion at the Capitol and everyone is welcome. Even though it looks like we are going to have a large number of bikers in attendance, this should not be confused with a rally. Rallies are designed to attract the masses, our lobby day is designed to meet your legislators' one on one and lobby for biker issues. That is why it is scheduled for a weekday when legislators will be there instead of a weekend when we could make a strong showing look easy.

The legislative issues of current concern to ABATE of WI are:

-Seeing AB55 pass without amendments through the Senate. AB55 is the technical correction to legislation passed rules concerning right of way violations defined in 2006 Wisconsin Act 466. It passed the Assembly in September and we would like to see something finished before riding season begins again.

-Reaffirm our position on the current helmet law in Wisconsin and offer solid facts supporting our position.

-Correct the lack of state funding of motorcycle safety programs that part of our registration money is supposed to be spent on.

-Highlight our commitment to motorcycle safety by informing our legislators of ABATE of WI self-funded programs; Share the Road motorcycle awareness classes, awareness materials and rallies, peer to peer anti impaired riding campaign. Bus routes have been planned to promote attendance at this event and are available online at www.abatewis.org or you can call 715-284-7415 and ask for information. No experience necessary and you need not be a member of ABATE to attend. We welcome all motorcyclists to join us at no cost, we only ask for you to show respect and courtesy when addressing legislators and members. Someone will be available to join you when meeting legislators.

We shouldn't have to use the word apathy when so many of our basic freedoms are being infringed upon.

Bikers wrote the book on strength, spirit, and passion. The days of hoping things will go away are gone. Let 2012 be the year you decide to get involved. To find out more about the issues ABATE of WI will be lobbying about, or to join ABATE of WI, go to www.abatewis.org. I hope to see you at the Capitol.

ABATE of Wisconsin's Citizen Biker

Madison Lobby Day

January 24, 2012

No Experience Necessary

Free Bus Rides to Madison

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All Motorcyclists Welcome to Join Us!



ABATE OF WISCONSIN, INC.
THE MOTORCYCLE ADVOCATE

www.abatewis.org



For more information and to stay informed on issues important to all motorcyclists sign up for

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FROM THE DESK OF JOE WEIGEL:

You do not need to be a super hero to make a difference. Just pick one or two projects important to you; donate your time and talent; give of yourself. Whether it is ABATE; your church; a food pantry; music; the arts; your local humane society. Donate time. Give back as best you can. Even if it is one or two hours per month.

THE INDEPENDENT SHOP ASSOCIATION