

**Vigilance
by Dave "Chubby" Charlebois**

The purpose of ABATE of Wisconsin Inc is to give motorcyclists a united voice, in regard to their future, their way of life, and their dedication to freedom. To maintain a constant vigil against all discriminatory laws which infringe on the motorcyclists rights or their basic freedoms. And to educate the public on motorcycle safety and awareness. For the last few issues I have mentioned some of the things ABATE of Wisconsin Inc does legislatively. Most everyone should know that ABATE plays an essential part in keeping our helmet law "freedom of choice". And, that we were the only organization in Wisconsin that helped to write, promote, and eventually pass Roadway Users Responsibility Act 466 giving us increased right of way penalties, mandatory motorcycle awareness in classrooms, and the ability to proceed through a vehicle actuated red light, among other things. But ABATE is not just about legislation, we have a stake in the education and safety of motorcyclists in Wisconsin also.


This past November, ABATE Region 1A; Milwaukee put together a meeting discussing roadway and construction hazards. ABATE Representative Paul Vita introduced our guest panel to a crowd of almost eighty bikers with representation from several clubs and organizations. I was sorry to see the lack of media coverage, except for Preacher, but was glad to see that our WIDOT Director and county executives felt it important enough to send their best. Milwaukee County Director of Public Works George Torres, Waukesha County Director of Public Works Richard Bolte, and Robert Anderson, planning engineer for the Southeastern Wisconsin DOT all made up an excellent panel to address our concerns. ABATE Founder Tony "Pan" Sanfelipo gave a PowerPoint presentation that showed some of the concerns of motorcyclists not only in the southeast, but the entire state. Several ABATE of Wisconsin Inc Board members were present and asked most of the questions in order to keep the meeting moving along, with a chance for attendees to ask a few questions toward the end. All attendee's were urged to fill out question forms that were given to our panel for follow up and discussions. Although our panel seemed almost smug at times, I believe for the most part they were very receptive to our concerns. Some issues proved to be simple to change (we'll see), and some would probably require legislation to change. But, above all, a line of communication was opened, and a considerable amount of knowledge was gained. I hope other ABATE regions decide to put meetings like this together in other parts of the state.

Great thanks go out to all those who attended and to our distinguished panel. Also thanks to Hupy/Abraham law firm for covering the room expense and appetizers, and to Eisenberg, Weigel, and Carlson law firm for mailing flyers out for us. Meetings like this wouldn't be possible without a great volunteer effort from our members, so thanks go out to them also.

Of all the issues addressed at the recent Milwaukee meeting, the most important one is actually one that wasn't addressed but was definitely implied; Vigilance. Because it's not ABATE of Wisconsin Inc's job just to fight for new laws, because many times the solution to our problems doesn't need a legal fix, just a communication repair. To recognize and respond to the concerns of all bikers in the State with regards to their safety on the road. To make ourselves visible at all meetings were motorcycle rights, education, and safety are addressed. To keep the doors open for bikers. That is ABATE's job. Because vigilance is the eternal price of freedom. Please join ABATE of Wisconsin Inc and help us in our fight for "freedom of the road". To join, just log onto www.abatewis.org or call our State Office at 800-386-4442.



BENEFIT
for
Maggot (Carl)
Saturday, January 13th at 7:00p.m.
Zodiac's M.C. Clubhouse
2324 Fond du Lac Rd., Oshkosh



Maggot has been diagnosed with terminal emphysema. This disease has been a huge financial burden on Carl, Val and their family. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated.
Thank you, Z.M.C.

DJ, Food, 50/50 and Raffles
\$10.00 Donation/ \$15.00 per Couple

For advance donations call:
Double D (920) 203-5011 Clubhouse (920) 235-4696

Letter from the Chairmen of the American Biker Party

The mid-term elections are over and it's clear the Democrats did quite well. The election question I have is did the Democrats win or did the Republicans lose?

If you weren't happy with the party in charge what choice did you have? What is clear is Americans want change.

REAL CHANGE:

The Democrats and Republicans have taken turns being the party in charge and neither have seriously dealt with the problems Americans want to see addressed.

Energy has been a problem for 30 years. When are we going to see a policy form either party that will lead to true energy independence. It is possible.

The war, terrorism and the problems in the mid-east are very complicated issues. One thing is clear wars are expensive, for all sides. The cold war ended when communist Russia accepted the fact that they could not afford to keep up with western technology.

The countries that support terrorism and pose the biggest threat to our country can only afford to do so with the profits from oil. The more profit, the more they can invest to further their interests. Neither party has seriously addressed the issues of health care and the problems with Veterans b\Benefits.

Real change will only take place when politicians are held accountable to the people, not their political party, or special interest.

The American Biker Party is the party for positive change. How well would the democrats have done if they were not the only alternative.

Sincerely
God bless America and support Our troops
Steven "Mad" Erato Frank "Claim Jumper" Rios