

### From the desk of the ABATE of WI PR guy

NTSB, NHTSA, HIPAA, VMT, FMVSS 218, DOT, AMA, MRF, SMRO, ABATE are just a few of the acronyms you may come across if you regularly read anything to do with motorcyclists' rights. Even if you aren't a biker you should recognize at least a few of these. With the exception of ABATE, all of these acronyms mean the same thing in any state that you may travel in. All of them directly impact bikers, whether we know it or not. Knowing what these acronyms mean and how they affect our lives is one of the many benefits of being a member of a states motorcyclists' rights organization (SMRO).

In Wisconsin, ABATE stands for A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments. Quite a mouthful to swallow, but every part of it has deep roots. A few years ago, ABATE of WI sent a delegation to help the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) lobby our congressmen in DC to write letters to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) asking them to reconsider their recommendations to congress and use their crash analysis skills to really look into the root causes of motorcycle crashes and find ways to avoid crashes, not just crash safer. "Totalitarian" starts to make sense when you consider that almost all the data collected by the NTSB came from flawed National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) statistics that fail to recognize the sharp rise in motorcycle registrations that go along with our rising fatality rate. The data obviously didn't come from the two day symposium they had with motorcyclists or the six motorcycle accidents that they actually investigated. I'm sure no one from the NTSB took the time to hop on a motorcycle and actually see some of the problems that confront many of us on a daily basis. Wearing a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 218 (FMVSS 218) compliant helmet is not the silver bullet to motorcycle safety. And, you have to wonder if a mandatory helmet law would happen nationwide and show no significant reductions in fatalities, what would be next? Airbags, seatbelts, training wheels, roll cages? Seems ridiculous now, but what's next?

I suppose that with all this talk about helmet laws most people that aren't familiar with ABATE probably think that it's the only issue we deal with. Simply not true. In Wisconsin, we run a motorcycle awareness program called Share the Road which teaches new drivers how to better interact with motorcyclists on our roadways. We have a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) endorsed rider education program called Safe Rider Inc that teaches several hundred students a year how to ride. We just held a lobby day in Madison that brought almost 500 motorcyclists from all over

the state to lobby legislators about current issues concerning motorcyclists. We send delegates to Washington DC to work with not only the MRF, but also the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) on motorcycle related road safety, insurance, and discrimination issues. We are part of many conferences nationwide better insuring that we have up to date information to share with Wisconsin motorcyclists. We've convinced all of our congressmen to sign on to fix a loophole in the Health Insurance Parity and Accountability Act (HIPAA) that allows motorcyclists to be denied health insurance while riding. And the list goes on.

If you never knew what ABATE was about, I hope you have come away with a better understanding now. It may not be all about helmets, but it is all about freedom. If this article has sparked your curiosity, please go to our website at [www.abatewis.org](http://www.abatewis.org) and learn more about the laws that affect our lifestyle and how you can get involved. Vigilance is the eternal price of freedom.

Dave "Chubby" Charlebois

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### Bikers Support Brown In Historic Senate Victory

Scott Brown captured the national spotlight in his bid to replace the late Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts, and he is a modern American success story, rising from relative obscurity to be the first Republican in decades elected to the U.S. Senate in the most liberal Democratic state in the country.

Paul Cote of the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association joined newly-elected Senator Scott Brown at his victory celebration at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston following his shocking election upset. The MMA worked with Sen. Brown's campaign in gratitude for his support of motorcyclists' legislation over the many years he has served in the state legislature.

"Since last September, when the Massachusetts Motorcycle Political Action Committee (MMPAC) supporters started gathering signatures to get Scott Brown on the ticket for the US Senate Special Election, we have knocked on doors, stood outside grocery stores and even 'hung out at the landfills' to get Scott elected," said Rick Gleason of MMPAC. Not only is Brown a biker-friendly politician, but he rides a Victory motorcycle!

**THE MIDWEST'S BEST MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET**

GT PROMOTIONS 920-202-4590

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

- ABATE BOOTH -

**- 2010 SCHEDULE -**

**KEEP THIS CARD - MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Sun., March 7 - Clark Cty. Fairgrounds - Neillsville, WI

Sun., March 14 - Brat Stop Hall - Kenosha, WI

Sun., March 21 - Dunne Cty. Fairgrounds - Menomonie, WI

Sun., March 28 - Riverside Ballroom - Green Bay, WI

Sat., April 10 - Waupaca Expo Center - Waupaca, WI

Sat., May 1 - Rock County Fairgrounds - Janesville, WI

Sat., May 8 - Echo Speedway - West Union, IA

Sun., May 16 - Delta County Fairgrounds - Escanaba, MI

Sun., May 23 - Joe Davis Fairgrounds - Warren, IL

**First Official Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration in Wisconsin**  
**March 27, 2010**  
 1:30 - 4:00PM  
 Eau Claire North High School

Sponsored by: Thuy Smith International Outreach and WEAU TV 13

WEAU TV 13 News Anchor Judy Clark will emcee the event.

WI Public TV will be showing clips from an upcoming documentary about WI Vietnam Veterans.

Huey helicopter will be on display, presentation of colors, youth presentation, Native American Drums, Hmong Veterans & cultural presentation, Invited state & local officials, & other surprises.

**Speakers:**  
 Thuy Smith (Thuy Smith International Outreach),  
 Ken Black (Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs),  
 Dan Dunham (Vietnam Veteran who passed very first Vietnam Veteran day bill),  
 Robert Mann (County Veterans service Officer- Ho-Chunk Nation),  
 Hmong Veteran, local Veteran,  
 David Backstrom & Chuck Gorecki

Banquet for Vietnam Vets and Vietnam Era Vets to Follow Event.

Information to RSVP & Purchase Tickets to Banquet, go to:  
<http://www.thuyamithinternationaloutreach.org/> or email at: [tlspgpc@yahoo.com](mailto:tlspgpc@yahoo.com)