

## From the Desk of ABATE of Wisconsin Executive Director Chubby

Will a national helmet law be introduced in the upcoming year? Is it true that some people aren't covered on some group health plans if they are riding a motorcycle? Can a motorcycle really proceed through a vehicle actuated red light after waiting forty-five seconds? Is it really illegal to modify the exhaust on my motorcycle in Wisconsin? My kid said a biker gave an awareness presentation in driver's education today, what organization does that? If you have always wanted to know the answers to these questions and more, just ask any ABATE of Wisconsin member. They'll be the ones wearing the red, white, and blue upside down triangle patch that's exclusive to ABATE of WI. Every month our members are updated on current street motorcycle issues and what they can do to help protect their freedoms. Have you always thought there was something more you could do to protect your freedoms and keep an ever more intrusive government off your back? There is; join ABATE of Wisconsin and be a part of motorcycling history. Please take the time to become a member.

Years ago, when Preacher first offered me some space to put Wisconsin legislative news, I asked him if he was a member of ABATE. "No, if I join ABATE then I'd have to join everybody" was his reply. Can't say I pressured him too much, but after some time I think he came around (ABATE of WI membership lists are confidential, so even I don't know). Now, I think he is involved in every political organization around. At least he's not afraid to stand up for his beliefs. Why the change of heart? I can only guess that eventually everybody wants to be a part of their own destiny. While some people are content with letting others run their lives, some people take action and run their own. Many bikers out there have fought for our freedoms on foreign soil, many others work hard every day just looking forward to the next time they can feel the wind in their hair and the road beneath their feet. I've never figured out how to change a person's mind about standing up for their own rights and freedom if they don't care too, but it doesn't mean I've quit trying. Some time ago, Preacher commented in an editorial about one of his pet peeves, people that pass the buck and count on someone else to do the work. "It's not my job" is a thorn in every American's side. In my case, or the case of ABATE of Wisconsin, I will take responsibility. I should be getting some of the ten percent of my members that show up at meetings to take some of their free time to promote our organization. I should ask people that have already used up half of their vacation at work to lobby against an insurance or helmet bill to give just a little more and man a booth at a packed "biker" event when they

could be enjoying the weekend. I'd like get a few of our members to walk around events and promote fighting for everyone's freedoms to every biker especially those wearing "freedom is not free" or American flags on their vests, even though every time I try we're looked at like we're Jehovah's Witnesses. There is so much I could do. And I surely don't want to say that it's not by job, because it is. It is also the job of every freedom loving biker in America. Young/ old, male/ female, black/white, Republican/Democrat we're all in this together. Don't tell me you were going to join but you couldn't find a meeting. Ask any ABATE member, they should be able to give you a membership quad-fold or direct you to our website([www.abatewis.org](http://www.abatewis.org)) where there is not only information on joining but all current news for bikers, the answers to almost every question I asked previously, and contact numbers if you need assistance on a specific issue. But don't use the lack of promotion on our part as an excuse to not fight for your freedoms. Where there's a will there's a way. The next time you see an ABATE of WI member at a event or swap meet, don't look the other way. If they weren't there promoting ABATE, they could just be out having fun too.



**AN OVERREACHING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY IS CALLING BIKERS A DISEASE OF THE ROADWAYS. THEY ARE WORKING TO TAKE AWAY OUR FREEDOMS OF THE ROAD AS MOTORCYCLISTS.**

## WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

*Are you just going to hand over your motorcycle keys when they come knocking?*

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