

A.B.A.T.E of Minnesota - Metro Chapter  
Coon Rapids V.F.W.  
February 11, 2025

Attendance:

President: Nick Capra Vice President: Jameson Lemke

Treasurer: Joe "JJ" Jones Secretary: Shannon Bros

Chapter Rep: Rob Benjamin

Sgt at Arms: Shannon Bros, Marcia Capra, Eric Gates, Brian "Benny" Ladoux

Members: Patricia Gates, Randy Swenson, Tammi Robison, Chris Green, Denise Green, Jayada Green, Jim Laspisa, Ron Lischeid, Andrew Godfrey, Samantha Godfrey, Putz, Marcia Borchardt. Total members in attendance: 20.

We opened the meeting at 7pm with the pledge of allegiance led by Shannon.

Secretary Report: The chapter looked over the minutes from last month's meeting. Brunch was updated from Saturday in the minutes to Sunday. Jayson Price was signed in as a member, updated to sign him in as a visitor. Motion to accept secretary report Marcia/Marcia. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer Report: There was a Zoho charge that popped up in expenses. The treasurer will be looking into this charge. Brunch will now be monthly to help bring more people in. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report Putz/Benny. All in favor, motion passed.

Chapter Rep Report: January BOD has come and gone. A young rider recipient sent in a thank you letter that was read to the attendees. Current issues regarding bike rights include bill SF54. We are fighting to get a reduced sales tax on bikes older than 10 years. Right now all bikes regardless of year pay the same sales tax. Cars pay less for older cars and classics. This bill would put us on equal ground with car buyers for sales. There is a motion made in the capital to repeal the lane filtering law. The representatives want to update the wording before the law goes into effect. If the proposed changes happen this would affect the ability to do side by side riding. Lack of training and education with the general public is also a huge push for the state to repeal this law. This presents an opportunity for us to reach out to our representatives and senators and let them know how we feel. This would be a great opportunity to earn the write to ride patch. Upcoming events include the Heartland Steam April 4 and 5 in Iowa. Biker in the Beltway Will be taking place in Washington DC as well. Rob is the new MRF rep for this year. Motion made, Marcia/Samantha. All in favor, motion passed.

Chapter Committee Reports:

Membership Committees, events and updates

--Membership Activity & Event Committees

– St Patty's Day Party. Presale ticket sales are going well. The ticket will include free beer, a

burger basket, music by Rogue Royal. The chapter is looking for silent auction donations, any silent auction items can be dropped off with Shannon so she can assemble the baskets and take inventory of items and fill out auction sheets. Shannon will be baking for the bake sale and is looking for anyone else who would like to contribute baked goods. If an item is donated and you want a minimum bid on the item let Shannon know so it can be added to the auction sheet.

– Donnie Smith Bike Show: Our spot is reserved. ABATE will be joining CMA and Dial A Ride in our booth. Ron will be supplying backdrops for the booth. Our tunnel pass is set for 11 am the Thursday before the show. We are looking for volunteers to help set up and give people breaks.

--Member Training & Activities Committee: Eric has a lot of interest in road guard training for the late spring or early summer. He will be gathering more information. CMA is hosting another Accident Scene Management training. If you are interested, reach out to Marcia Capra to sign up.

State Rally Report: Nothing new to report.

Legislative Business: Monthly update in the road noise. Nothing new to report.

New Business:

–Metromorial: Southern Express has been locked in as our band for Metromorial. We are looking for volunteers and vendors to help run the event. The vendor fee remains \$50 as in previous years. Nick will be reaching out to the face painters and balloon artist for the event. As usual this event will be the Sunday of Memorial weekend.

–Dirty Rotten Biker Fest: Metro will be partnering with Sand Dunes to set up and run an ABATE table.

– Chapter incentive challenge: The winners in order from first to last are Marcia Capra, Shannon Bros, Jameson Lemke, JJ, Randy Swenson

–Bike Night at the VFW: The VFW has given us approval to host a bike night the Second Tuesday of the month starting April 8th as the kickoff. This would run from 5-7pm before our monthly meeting. Parking would not be an issue and there's a possibility of having designated parking for this night. We are inquiring about offering a special on food in the form of a burger basket. The VFW has suggested maybe we can partner with the bags tournament. The cost to bring in any outside food vendors is a \$100 license to have food outdoors The chapter voted to cover half the cost of the license for the VFW. Motion made Eric/Andrew. All in favor, motion passed.

–ABATE U: For the chapter challenge at ABATE U the chapter voted to donate \$250 to help fund the event. Motion made, Benny/Jim. All in favor, motion passed.

– The second round of nominations for officer elections has been announced. The nomination for president is Jameson Lemke. The nominations for vice president are Brian

Ladoux, Jim Laspisa, Eric Gates. The nomination for treasurer is Joe "JJ" Jones. The nomination for secretary is Shannon Bros. The chapter rep position has 2 nominations this round, Rob Benjamin and Patricia Gates. The nominations for Sergeant at Arms are Rob Benjamin, Eric Gates, Tammi Robison, Marcia Capra and Samantha Godfrey. A huge thank you to all who are willing to fill these rolls.

Ron made a motion to cover up to \$100 to help cover the cost for those wishing to attend the heartland steam in Iowa. This money would be divided based on how many members attended this event. Motion made, Ron/Jim. All in favor, motion passed.

Ron made a motion to reimburse chapter members up to \$100 for helping to cover volunteer shifts at Donnie Smith. Members would be required to put in 4 hours volunteering and there may be a schedule made to help cover shifts. The reimbursement would be a first come first serve basis. Motion made, Ron/Eric. All in favor, motion passed.

--Breakfast at Route 47, Sunday February 16th, 2025

--Taco Night at Casa Rio Monday March 2nd, 2025

--St Pattys Party, March 15th, 2025

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:41pm. Motion made by Eric/Benny. All in favor, motion passed