



ROAD NOISE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF A.B.A.T.E. OF MN, INC.

Volume 40 Issue 1

January 2026

New Year's Prayer for Bikers

Lord of the open road,
As the calendar turns and a new year begins,
I thank You for the miles behind me,
For the wind, the freedom, the fellowship, and
the lessons learned.

I ask now for Your guidance on the road ahead.

Bless my bike, my body, and my journey.
Grant me sharp eyes, steady hands, and a clear heart.
Protect me from harm, and help me ride with
wisdom and grace.

Let every twist of the throttle remind me of
Your power,

And every sunrise ride renew my spirit.
May I honor those who have gone before,
Lift up those who ride beside me,
And welcome those yet to join the road.

This year, may my path be purposeful,
My ride be righteous,
And my heart be open to the beauty of the ride.

~ Amen ~



This publication is the Official Newsletter of A.B.A.T.E. of MN, Inc. Opinions expressed here in, by the Editor and others, may not be those of A.B.A.T.E. of MN. Articles may be reprinted with proper attribution.

SUBMISSIONS TO ROAD NOISE
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 Road Noise
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ROAD NOISE ADVERTISEMENTS

No faxed ads. Deadline is the 1st of the month prior to publication. Use a jpeg file format for electronic ads. Mailed ads must be mailed flat. Send Display Ad Artwork on paper no larger than 8.5" X 11". **Do not reduce artwork to desired size**, make a note for the desired size for the ad (spell out the size).

Cost / Spaces / per issue

Business Card	\$15.00
1/4 page	\$35.00
1/2 page	\$65.00
Full page	\$125.00
Full page *Insert	call

*Additional printing charges for Inserts.
 If Ads are prepaid for one year, a 10% discount is applied. If production work is necessary on the Ad, \$35.00 per hour will be billed.
 Chapter Fundraisers/political ads receive a 30% discount.
 At the discretion of the Editor, if late ads (after the 1st of the month prior to publication) are accepted, a 20% surcharge will be added to the cost.

Website advertising:

Chapter Fundraisers ads are free of charge. Use a jpeg file format for electronic ads and send to: roadnoise@abatemn.org.

LETTERS AND ARTICLES

Submissions are encouraged, however, are subject to editing and will be printed at the discretion of the Road Noise Committee. The use of foul language, personal attacks or the use of language that may be libelous or interpreted as inciting hate or sexual harassment is not permitted. User comments are reviewed by moderators to ensure that comments meet these standards. Anyone submitting an article, "Letter to the Editor," or photograph may request that it be returned by including with submission a self-addressed stamped envelope. Letters to the Editor must be accompanied with the author's signature. For electronic picture submissions, use a tiff or jpeg file format.

GRAPEVINES AND REPORTS

The deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication.

- DO NOT submit in all uppercase, or insert backgrounds.
- Include your chapter/committee name on the subject line of the email that you send to the Road Noise.

Use the following basic outline:

- 1) Chapter/Committee Name
- 2) Next Chapter/Committee Meetings/Time, Place
- 3) Upcoming Events; What, Where, When
- 4) Meeting Updates, Important News, Comments



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Not receiving your Road Noise?

Contact the State Office to ensure your address is correct in our system. If it is correct, you will need to contact your post office to ensure that they are delivering the Road Noise to you.

Get address changes to me ASAP.

Road Noise is bulk mail and will not be forwarded.

Membership tri-folds:

can be requested from the State Office, or from Shelley Deutsch (Membership & Retention Chair) at (507) 227-4498, or membership [@abatemn.org](mailto:abatemn.org). You can also find membership forms on the website at www.abatemn.org. When you recruit a new member, write your name and Chapter on the tri-fold so you receive credit for the recruit. Make sure tri-folds, Chapter information forms, and other pertinent business documents are **written legibly, including area codes, zip codes, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.** Use **POSTAL CORRECT** addresses. The following are address tips: Do not abbreviate County Road, Minnesota State Highway, Circle, do not use #sign (i.e. Co. Rd, ST, Hwy, CR, use Lot or Apt. or TRLR number, example: Trailer + number =TRLR 201 or Lot 201, or Apt 201).

Memberships:

Postcards go out to members who will expire at the end of that given month. Renewals must reach the State Office by the third Friday of the month, regardless of the date, to ensure you receive your next month's Road Noise. Use **POSTAL CORRECT** address! Please allow 4-6 weeks to receive your new hard cards.

Minutes:

from Chapter, Committee, and District meetings can be e-mailed to stateoffice@abatemn.org.

Mailing Labels:

The State Office can print current mailing labels for your Chapter's newsletters, reminder cards, and event flyers.

Feel free to call me with questions, concerns, and inquiries 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, or leave a message and I will return your call ASAP.

A.B.A.T.E. of MN accepts no responsibility for the submissions, comments, opinions, or errors contained within this publication.



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M	Duluth	Northeast Chapter
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8	Grand Rapids	Up North Chapter

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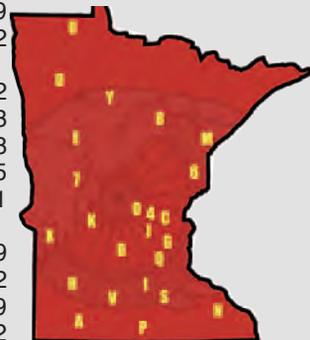
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Dear Fellow Motorcyclists:

American Bikers for Awareness, Training, and Education (A.B.A.T.E.) of Minnesota is a not for profit, grass roots organization that is committed to educating motorcyclists and the general public about motorcycling. A.B.A.T.E. members ride many different types and brands of motorcycles. We are all people with a common interest in a common activity. The fact that we share an interest in motorcycling is more important than the type of motorcycle we ride.

There are chapters of A.B.A.T.E. located throughout Minnesota. Each of these chapters is represented on the A.B.A.T.E. Board of Directors (B.O.D.). The B.O.D. also includes the A.B.A.T.E. state officers. The B.O.D. meets once each quarter to discuss the operation of the organization. In addition, each chapter holds a monthly meeting in their area of the state. A.B.A.T.E. is a member driven organization. Members are encouraged to participate in any of these meetings.

A.B.A.T.E. seeks to promote the positive aspects of motorcycling and strives to protect the rights of motorcyclists by

being involved in the local, state and national political process. Safer motorcycling, reducing accidents and fatalities can be best accomplished by education and training of both the motorcyclists and the general public, not necessarily through additional legislation.

Our ability to enjoy many freedoms while riding motorcycles in Minnesota is the direct result of the work done by motorcyclists in our state. These people have joined together to fight for our rights and freedoms.

The efforts of these people have made Minnesota a leader in motorcycle safety. We have one of the toughest licensing standards in the nation, the best public awareness programs, and the most comprehensive rider education programs in the nation. These efforts have helped reduce motorcycle accidents, injuries, and fatalities in spite of the growing number of licensed motorcyclists in Minnesota.

To continue these efforts we need your support and participation. Show your commitment to protecting and preserving

your rights as a motorcyclist in Minnesota. Participate in the meetings, rides, and the fundraising activities. You will be informed about the motorcycle activities in the state by receiving Road Noise, the A.B.A.T.E. monthly news publication. A.B.A.T.E. is fun, educational and a great way to meet people and make new friends with similar interests.

With your help, we can continue to promote the positive image of motorcyclists. If you want more information about A.B.A.T.E., please attend any of our meetings, meet other members, and ask questions.

We are pleased that you have decided your rights are worth protecting, that the positive aspects of motorcycling are worth promoting, that education is important, and that the cost of an A.B.A.T.E. membership is a small price to pay to preserve and promote these principles.

Members are the most important thing that A.B.A.T.E. has, so Thank You for becoming a member and we look forward to seeing you at our events.

MINNESOTA ORGANIZATIONS

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Happy New Year!

Are you ready for 2026? Have you set goals for the new year? It's time to get involved, bring in new members, support each other, and work together to have a successful year. From chapter meetings, to events, and political involvement, now is the time to get active.

Did you know that there are several ways to keep an eye on what's happening at our State Capitol?

- go to www.house.mn.gov and check out House of Representative information and session daily news
- go to www.senate.mn for Senate information and publications
- look up bills and their progress through the legislature through those websites
- Contact your House Representative and Senator to get on their email list
- watch for and share A.B.A.T.E. of MN Legislative Team communications

Many of our chapters have parties during the winter. Let's support them as much as possible.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Helen Keller

Jane



ASSISTANT STATE COORDINATOR

JIM ORN

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Well, I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For myself, we spent a lot of time with friends and family, made a trip to Colorado Springs also, to visit our three grandkids like we do just about every year at Christmas time. Oh yeah, and visit our Son and Daughter-in-law also.

Are you ready to run for office? Start small and work your way up? Or the heck with it, start at the top. That way you don't have to work your way up.

Remember there are a few state positions opening up. Now is the time to step up and see what it's all about. Try it, it's not so bad. I've been doing it for over 10 years.

Have you picked your date for checking out some fundraisers yet? As I was looking in the December Road Noise, I saw that there's a lot of events coming up. And as far as events go, are you thinking about going to Heartland STEAM in March? It's always packed with a lot of great information.

Hope to see everybody at the April B.O.D. and A.B.A.T.E. U.

Sorry, I will not be able to attend the January B.O.D.

Till next time,

Jim



STATE TREASURER

**"MITCH"
MICHELLE BACKLUND**

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Happy New Year!

Cheers to a great year for A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota. Here's hoping we increase membership and keep everyone engaged on promoting motorcycle safety and training.

Hope to see many of you at Heartland STEAM.

Mitch

A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota Legislative Team Report

The Minnesota legislative session will be starting soon. Your A.B.A.T.E. of MN Legislative Team will do our best to alert people to legislation we feel is important to motorcyclists. We remind our members to pay close attention as well because we may not catch something that is important to you. Almost every aspect of our lives is affected by government; transportation, health care, taxes, our children's education, and the list goes on. Each person should be paying attention because something important to them may come up that the Legislative Team does not flag. A.B.A.T.E. of MN has had a motto since the beginning - "Better Government Through Citizen Participation." That's us paying attention and being involved.

A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota's Bikerday at the Capitol is quickly approaching. A.B.A.T.E. of MN has the Capitol Rotunda reserved on March 25th starting at 1PM. Registration and bus schedules are listed at abatemn.org/events. Our current Bikerday talking points are also listed there. And we will closely monitor bill introductions after the legislature convenes February 17th.

As technology moves forward, there is increasingly more concern about how it will affect your rights and safety. Traffic camera enforcement (photo-cop) is rearing its ugly head again in Minnesota. And we expect there will be legislation to enlarge the program. In other parts of the country, photo-cop has been proven to prioritize revenue generation over safety. The National Motorist Association has warned of this and the loss of constitutional rights that come with it for years. Google "NMA photo enforcement" for details. Recently Republican Minnesota Representative Greg Davids of Preston announced he will author a bill to ban automated speed enforcement cameras in Minnesota. This comes after the Rochester City Council narrowly passed a motion to seek state approval for a speed camera pilot program. "That's bipartisan," Davids said. "I have never had anyone come to me in my 33 years in the Minnesota House say, 'Greg, we need these cameras so we can get more tickets.'"

And pay attention to the expanding use of

automated license plate readers (ALPR). Combined with Artificial Intelligence (AI) there is a possibility to create a vast tracking and surveillance system of everyday Americans as they travel about the country.

Also, self-driving car company Waymo announced it is coming to Minnesota leading to more questions than answers (Can they reliably detect a motorcycle?). We expect to see legislation introduced for and against self-driving car technology.

This is not futuristic science fiction stuff. It is here and now. Pay attention to conversations surrounding these issues. Please speak to your elected officials about A.B.A.T.E. of MN's motorcycling talking points and the new-age concerns outlined above.

Contact legislativeteam@abatemn.org with questions or suggestions. Thank you.

*Your A.B.A.T.E. of MN
Legislative Team*



**NCOM
LIASON**

JANE DOYLE

(612) 910-1572

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The NCOM board continues to grow. We currently have about 23 people attending our monthly ZOOM meetings.

A new Florida bill would change the definition of a "criminal gang member." Why should bikers care? Because vague or broadened definitions have historically been used to target motorcycle clubs and riding groups.

VIEW THE PDF OF THIS BILL:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/429/BillText/Filed/PDF>

— Jane

A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota Inc.



MRF REPORT

ROB BENJAMIN
MRF STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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The holidays are behind us and the days are getting longer and soon it will be time to clean the bike up and go for a ride. While you are getting excited for Spring, think about the upcoming election (midterms) and what you can do. Attending a caucus would be great and writing your representative and letting them know your thoughts on some issues would help as well.

In December of last year, President Trump announced a major rewrite of the federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. The proposal rolls back the fuel-economy targets established during the previous administration, targets that automakers argued could not be met without a rapid shift toward electric vehicles. The administration framed the change as a return to the original purpose of CAFÉ, focusing on fuel efficiency, rather than forced electrification.

The move fits into a broader regulatory shift. Earlier this year, lawmakers revoked California's EPA waiver, which allowed the state to impose stricter emissions rules and effectively push zero-emission vehicle mandates. That waiver had become one of the most powerful national drivers of EV adoption, as many other states follow California's standards. Removing it, combined with the newly proposed CAFE reset, amounts to a coordinated effort to ease regulatory pressure that had been steering manufacturers away from internal-combustion engines.



EDUCATION

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I hope you all made it through the holiday season unscathed this year. Schedules can get a little hectic, but now you can take a breath and relax.

I have an update on the scholarship program for 2026. As I stated in my last report, the operating funds are estimated to be approximately \$10,000 less than last year. In an effort to secure more funds, the Education Committee has decided to delay the 2026 scholarship program launch until March 1st. If we launch in December, we may run out of funds before we secure more. Seeing as this program currently is first come, first served, once we run out of funds, the program is shut down for the year. Even if we secure more funds after the program has been shut down for the year, we cannot start it back up again. It would be a logistical nightmare.

If you look at the scholarship application on the website you will notice we have changed the name of the scholarship program to "A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota Rider Scholarship." This is to reflect what the 501(c)(3) will be filed under and also create some separation from the A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota Young Riders program.

With any new undertaking, growing pains are to be expected. Although our funds are down this year, keep in mind what we have accomplished in the last three years, and where this program is headed in the future. Once the 501(c)(3) is operating, I expect the growth to be exponential. The sky is the limit, folks!

I'll see you at the board meeting!

"Data is not information, information is not knowledge, knowledge is not understanding, understanding is not wisdom."

—Jon

-Clifford Stoll



YOUNG RIDERS REPORT

HARMONY LILLIE
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As winter settles in and motorcycles are stored away, A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota is turning its attention to the next generation of riders. With dirt bikes and snowmobiles still in action, the organization sees an opportunity to engage youth through winter events such as ice racing. I know there are races happening in places like Kimball, now is the perfect time to find out where else these events are taking place. If members look around their communities, we can build something exciting together for our youth.

This is about more than getting members—it's about cultivating future members. A.B.A.T.E. emphasizes that youth memberships are affordable and make meaningful gifts for children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren. Membership comes with patches, a tangible symbol of belonging that Young Riders often treasure.

I believe expanding patch options could further strengthen youth engagement. But that's for future meetings, lol What kid doesn't love to get patches? It's a way to recognize their involvement and make them feel part of something bigger.

Still, the effort requires more support from you. We need enthusiasm and participation to build new legends for the future of motorcycling rights.

By encouraging families to sign up their young riders and by exploring winter racing opportunities, A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota hopes to keep its mission alive year-round. The organization's call is clear: help foster the next generation of riders, advocates, and leaders.

Current Proud Supporters of A.B.A.T.E. Young Riders

- Jane DoyleNovember 2025 - May 2026
- Vicki & Frank ErnstJune 2023 - May 2026
- Tri-County Chapter A.B.A.T.E. of MN. June 2023 - May 2027
- Lake Chapter A.B.A.T.E. of MN . . .January, 2024 - Dec. 2026
- Bob & Toni McChesney August 2023 - July 2026
- Jim & Kelly PiersonDecember 2024-May 2032
- Rolling Prairie Chapter
A.B.A.T.E. of MNDecember 2025-November 2026
- East Central Chapter
A.B.A.T.E. of MNDecember 2025 - November 2026

You can become a Young Rider Supporter!

We are offering the opportunity to become "Proud supporter of A.B.A.T.E. Young Riders."



STATE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

SHELLY DEUTSCH
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January 2026... WOW! How did that happen, it was just State Rally time.

A new month in a new year, what can we do to help this organization? Well, for one thing, check your membership card, make sure you are current! January starts the nomination process for Chapters & the State. Chapters get two months to nominate; State level only get the January B.O.D. If you are interested in a position, ask to see the manual to make sure you understand the job description.

If you are planning to vote by absentee ballot, you have to email your request by February 10, 2026. Please mention which chapter, your mailing address and if multiple chapters, which is your home chapter.

The office has been pretty quiet the past few weeks...

I will be out of the office from January 19th-February 6th.

Keep on Keepin on!

— Shelly



GAMBLING REPORT

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No Report Received

*See You at the A.B.A.T.E.
B.O.D. Meeting
January 17, 2026
See Agenda on Page 32*



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KARI DUNCAN
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PRODUCTS@ABATEMN.ORG

Hello fellow bikers.

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2026! I cannot believe that it has been 26 years since the Y2K fiasco. Gosh I feel old now.

Not much new in the products world. Just working on things for Heartland STEAM and A.B.A.T.E. University and getting out to chapter events as time and weather allow.

If you are planning an event and want State Products at your event as a vendor, please email me the details as soon as possible so I can get your event on my schedule.

If your chapter needs products, please email me before B.O.D.'s to have them brought to the B.O.D. to give to your chapter rep.

If you have ideas or suggestions for new products please email me and I will see what I can come up with.

Stay warm, — Kari



WAYS & MEANS REPORT

KRISTY LUHMAN
(952) 412-6064

Next Meeting(s):

January 4th, Ugly Bar, Montrose, 12:00 pm

I hope everyone had a safe and happy New Years. Cheers to 2026!

— Kristy



HISTORIAN

GAIDA TROUT
(320) 291-6975
HISTORIAN@ABATEMN.ORG

Hello everyone and Happy New Year! I hope you are all staying warm!

This month, I came across something I found interesting. It was from a copy of what I believe to have been in a Road Noise issue, as it contains Rick Arguello art. This is a shortened version.

FACT SHEET

The Minnesota Story - 1992

- Minnesota had a full helmet law for 9 years. (1968-1977) Proponents of this law stated, "This law will Dramatically reduce motorcycle fatalities."
- During this period, fatalities did not go down per 10,000 registered vehicles. They continued to increase almost every year.
- Minnesota has not had a helmet law (for adult operators) for 16 years. Our 1992 fatality rate plummeted to a 25 year low in spite of doubling the number of licensed motorcyclists on our roads.
- Since the repeal of Minnesota's mandatory adult helmet law, motorcycle fatalities have been reduced by 55%.
- Since our self funding Rider Education Program began in 1982, motorcycle fatalities have been reduced by 62%.
- Minnesota passed into law the first comprehensive and totally SELF FUNDING motorcycle safety program in the nation. Minnesota motorcyclists have donated over five million dollars to finance the Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Program.
- Minnesota motorcyclists recognized the problems, developed programs to solve the problems, and we did it without government mandates and without the use of any tax money.
- Minnesota has the best Public Awareness program in the nation. (Most states currently use the Minnesota model.)
- Minnesota has one of the most comprehensive Rider Education programs in the nation. Developed and supported by Minnesota motorcyclists.

We, as A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota members, and Minnesota motorcyclists, have clearly made a difference in the past, and we can clearly continue to support and preserve our rights. AND REMEMBER, this is not about not wearing a helmet, it is about the freedom to MAKE OUR OWN INDIVIDUAL CHOICE. Keep up that participation in our training programs, keep up the donations to our important safety programs, keep supporting the Young Riders, those who will continue the fight for our freedom of choice and our choices of transportation, without discrimination. Thank you to all for doing what you do to keep A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota and motorcyclists rights ALIVE.

—Gaida Gator Trout



STATE RALLY REPORT

DOUG COHEN

(605) 321-9613

Next Meeting(s)

January 16th, B.O.D. location, 8:00 pm

February 21st, Shaggy's Bonfire, Litchfield, 12:00 pm

March 14th, Shaggy's Bonfire, Litchfield, 12:00 pm

April 17th, A.B.A.T.E. University, Holiday Inn, Alexandria, 8:00 pm

Happy New Year!

We are ringing in the new year with new ideas for the State Rally.

At the December meeting, we reviewed all your suggestions and our proposed budget for 2026. Our goal is to use these suggestions to increase revenue and Rally attendance. We are working on changes to improve the Rally schedule and events. In the coming months, we will announce these improvements after we have worked out the details.

The Membership chair and Rally chairs will also work together to improve membership retention during the Rally.

We are looking at advertising opportunities to help increase Rally attendance. Advanced tickets will be available earlier online. We are also planning a family night during Rally week to engage the younger generation. Stay tuned for more details!

What can your chapter do to help with the Rally?

Sign up sponsors: The new sponsor form is easy to use and provides all the information

a business needs to know about both sponsorship programs. There is a QR code they can scan to sign up online, or they can still mail the form and fee. When you drop off a form to a business, be sure to fill in your information on the back of the form, so that the business can contact you if needed to come pick up the form and fee. The form is available on the state website to download and print, or contact Ingrid at 763-516-7029 to request more forms.

Discuss at your meetings how to help increase Rally attendance from your own chapter, especially with your new members. What you do with new members throughout the year will make a difference with their interest in the Rally at the end of the season. Talk about how to engage your new members, and how to make them feel welcome during Rally week. Start planning ideas for the decoration contest and social hours. It's never too early to start talking about Rally details.

Have you seen the new state website at abatemn.org? It's awesome. Check out our new and improved Rally page. Special shout out to Kimmer, she did a fantastic job!!

Please make notes of the Rally meeting schedule listed above. Due to schedule conflicts, we have made changes to the February and March meetings.

If you cannot attend a meeting in person and are on Facebook, contact Ingrid at 763-516-7029. She can add you to the group Rally chat on Messenger to attend the meeting over the phone.

As always, we appreciate and thank you for your feedback, and the time you put into the Rally planning process and attending meetings.

We'll see you at the January B.O.D!

— Dougie

HAPPY NEW YEAR





A.B.A.T.E. UNIVERSITY

STEPHANIE CHRISTENSEN

(763) 443-4732
ABATEU@ABATEMN.ORG

Next Meeting(s):

January 6th, zoom, 6:00 pm

A.B.A.T.E University
April 17th - 19th, Holiday Inn, Alexandria
320-763-6577

Reservations are OPEN!! Only call the number above and ask for the room block under A.B.A.T.E University for April 17th weekend.

Watch Facebook for any updates! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Thanks,
— *Stephanie*



Webmaster Report

Webmaster Backup Needed:

We are currently seeking a backup person to support the Webmaster role. This is a great opportunity to get involved behind the scenes and help keep our digital presence strong.

Requirements:

- Experience with Wix website management is essential
- Ability to assist with updates, troubleshooting, and form maintenance
- Willingness to collaborate and learn as needed

If you're interested or know someone who might be a good fit, please reach out to webmaster@abatemn.org.

Did you know that you can click on a flyer found in Events to increase the image to full screen and then scroll through all the event flyers.



MARKETING DIRECTOR

HARMONY LILLIE
(320) 583-6162
MARKETING@ABATEMN.ORG

In an era where organizations compete for attention in crowded mailboxes and digital inboxes, A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota is exploring a simple yet effective way to keep its name front and center: refrigerator magnets.

The concept is straightforward. Each year, active members would receive a magnet branded with the A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota name and message of appreciation. Much like the calendar magnets distributed annually by utility companies, these tokens would serve as a daily reminder of the organization's presence and mission.

Marketing experts often point to the power of "tangible touchpoints" –small items that members see and use regularly. Unlike postcards or letters that may be discarded, magnets remain visible for months or even years. It's not just a piece of swag, it's a symbol of belonging. Every time a member opens their fridge, they're reminded that A.B.A.T.E. is working to protect their motorcycle rights.

The proposed campaign would pair the magnet with personalized renewal notices, such as postcards from chapter leaders or letters from membership coordinators. The idea is to create a layered approach: the magnet builds ongoing visibility, while the renewal message provides a timely call to action.

Members would not only receive a practical item but also a gesture of appreciation. "We see you; we value you, and we want you to stay involved." If implemented, the initiative could become a tradition, with new designs each year—perhaps highlighting milestones in motorcycle rights advocacy or featuring chapter-specific artwork. Collectible magnets could even become a point of pride among long-time members.

As organizations nationwide look for innovative ways to retain members, A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota's magnet campaign demonstrates how small tokens can deliver big impact. Sometimes, loyalty is built not through grand gestures, but through the everyday moments when a member reaches for a drink and sees a reminder of the community they belong to.

Stay Safe — *Harmony*



MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION

APRIL MURCH

(612) 741-0279

MEMBERSHIP@ABATEMN.ORG

A Year in Review

As I contemplated what to share with you this month, I found myself thinking of where we were when we started this membership journey together a year ago and where we are now.

When I first joined as the Membership and Retention Chair, I was, honestly, hesitant and unsure of how the year would go. I had goals, but no real plan how to achieve them.

So, I came to all of you at A.B.A.T.E U. I came to you at the board meetings. I came to you at your chapter meetings. I came to you at your chapter fundraisers. I came to you at your chapter rides. You came to me with ideas. You came to me with support and encouragement. You came to me with answers. You came to me with excitement. You supported your fellow chapters in their efforts. We worked together as a team. We brainstormed ideas. We brought over 200 new members to our A.B.A.T.E. team. We encouraged each other. We congratulated each other.

WE ROCKED IT-TOGETHER

We were successful together this year. We did amazing things together. We did it all TOGETHER!

As we head into 2026 our work is still in



DIAL-A-RIDE

KYLA BAKER

(218) 407-4005

KYLAB1998@GMAIL.COM

No report received.



BUDDY BEAR CORNER

SHARON POLMAN

(218) 507-5163

BUDDYBEAR@ABATEMN.ORG

No Report Received:

progress. We have had amazing strides. We have had fantastic gains. We can achieve even more. We have proved that this year.

Thoughts for 2026

Paving the Road to Membership

What we need to do:

- Continue to excel at getting new members
- Continue to encourage our current membership to renew

How do we do it:

- Continue sending out our Intro to New Members, Thank you for renewing, and 3 months to expiration letters
- Continue to utilize social media and emailing our members to let them know what we are doing and where we are doing it
- Continue to brainstorm new and creative ways to get members as well as retain members
- Continue to recognize our members with member of the year awards, drawings at chapter meetings, engaging with our local chambers, continue featuring chapter members on our social media pages, gifting new members with a welcome gift
- CONTINUE SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER!

Membership Challenges

- Earn your membership patch in the "Where in A.B.A.T.E. is April and Harmony" Adventure
- \$500 to the chapter with the highest percent increase in membership
- Trophy to the chapter with the highest number of members
- Traveling District trophy to the chapter with the highest percent increase in membership

I am here for you. I am here to help.

Until Next Month Friends- Together We Are Stronger

— April



PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

TAMMY WINKELS

(320) 252-7353

PUBLICATIONS@

ABATEMN.ORG

Next Meeting(s):

January 11th, Zoom Meeting, 11:00 am

February 8th, Zoom Meeting, 11:00 am

WRITE TO RIDE

FRANK ERNST
(601) 801-2920



I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year, I hope you got a lot of rest. The holidays are over; it's time to be getting back in the groove, time to be protecting our motorcycling lifestyle. Here are some Important dates of things coming up early in 2026

February 3, 2026 Precinct caucuses, we encourage you to take part, make your voice heard.

January 27 2026 Special elections take place in House districts 47A and 64A. Do you live in either district, do you know who the candidates are, can we count on you to vote?

February 17, 2026 First day of the Minnesota 2026 legislative session.

March 25, 2026 Bikerday at the Capitol.
A day to get legislative work done while socializing with likeminded people, do you plan to be there?

Another important thing to consider, we have many legislative seats that have been or will be filled by new members, members that have served for only a few days during the 2025 legislative session or not at all. In the Senate, we have Senator Keri Heintzeman District 6, Senator Michael W. Holmstrom District 29, Senator Amanda H. Hemmingsen-Jaeger Senate District

47. In the House, Representative Xp Lee District 34B, Representative David Gottfried District 40B. We will also have House members in District 47A and 64A decided in a special election three weeks before the start of the 2026 session.

Do you live in any of the districts listed above?

Do you know who represents you or who is running for election if you live in a district with a special election?

Have you written newly elected legislators to congratulate them? Or written to ask candidates running in special elections their position on issues important to you? If elected these people will be deciding an awful lot about how you will be allowed to live your life, are you picking the right person? Send them a letter, send me their reply. I will try not to lose the W2R rockers this year and we ordered extra so we should not run out.

Need additional information, visit the A.B.A.T.E. of MN website abatemn.org, click legislation. Select Bikerday at the capitol to register to attend Bikerday and to see our current Talking Points. Or click on the find who represents me, tab under Legislation to retrieve information about locations of upcoming percent caucuses as it becomes available.

It's not too early to start thinking about rider safety training for 2026

— frank





MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TASK FORCE

JON FERNHOLZ
(952) 649-0581

MNMSATF@ABATEMN.ORG

Next Meeting(s):

January 15th, via Microsoft Teams, 5:00-7:00pm

Our last task force meeting was held on November 20th at Hennepin Technical College in Eden Prairie. There was a new member appointed to the task force and we welcomed him. To be totally honest, according to the Secretary of State (SOS) website there are no members appointed to the motorcycle safety advisory task force. I can't speak for others, but I have not received any formal notification that I have been appointed. SOS website discussion was on the November meeting agenda, but it was skipped over. The concept of changing the order of future agendas for each meeting to reflect time-sensitive topics was discussed. I truly hope this concept is adopted. The same order for every meeting makes it easy for preparation, but I feel it does a disservice to Minnesota motorcyclists from an advisory viewpoint.

In the November issue I reported about a waiver the MSF was pushing for rider coaches to sign nationwide that would not allow them to sue the MSF. There are a lot of moving parts to this and in the interest of not throwing more mud into murky waters, I will keep my

update very simple. The MSF has retracted their requirement for rider coaches to sign a waiver for the 2026 rider training season in the state of Minnesota. We can be thankful as there will be state run rider training courses available this coming season. By the time you read this the rider training course schedules should be posted.

We also discussed the possibility of raising the Basic Rider Course fee from \$259 to \$279 for the 2026 training season. I had my reservations about this until I heard the pitch. If you have read or heard my reports over the years, there has been a common denominator. Shortage of rider coaches. More riders could have been trained, but the bottleneck is the lack of coaches. Well, perhaps incentivizing the current coaches to coach more classes per year is a novel approach. I'll give you a scenario with ridiculously low dollar amounts to give you a window into the concept. Let's say a rider coach gets paid \$10 per hour and is required to coach four courses a year to maintain their coach status. Now, once that coach has taught eight courses, they receive an extra \$2 per hour and is back paid the extra \$2 per every hour worked up until that point. Maybe the next tier is at 12 courses taught with the same back pay concept. It takes a considerable amount of time and money to train rider coaches. To incentivize coaches the motorcycle safety program has already invested in simply makes sense. After discussion was held on this, the task force voted unanimously in favor of supporting the fee increase to \$279. Please keep in mind, this vote (all votes) is at an advisory capacity. That's it for this month. Make your own choices and keep your head on a swivel.

— Jon

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



L&M Bar and Grill
224 Railway St N
Dundas, Mn 55019
(507) 645-8987

Friday 8 AM-1 AM, Saturday 7 AM-1 AM,
Sunday 8:30 AM-3 PM
Monday 8 AM-11 PM,
Tuesday 8 AM - 11 PM,
Wednesday 8 AM 11 PM.
Thursday 8 AM- 11 PM

Welcome to L&M Bar, Grill & Patio, where culinary passion meets a warm, inviting atmosphere. Our mission is to create unforgettable dining experiences through delicious food, exceptional service and a commitment to quality.

The L&M features a full bar and menu options that will tide you over or fill you up. A welcoming atmosphere with attentive staff that will become friends. L&M merchandise is available as well as Straight River merch and passport books.

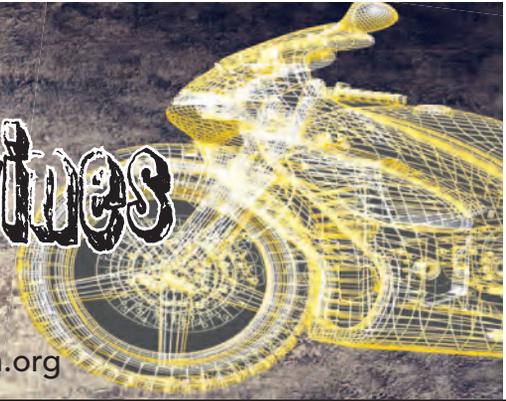
I consider this business to be "motorcycle friendly" because L&M is a Straight River Sponsor and passport stop. They proudly display a "Start Seeing Motorcycles" Banner on the building. The owners Pauline and Nick are also members of the Straight River Chapter. We had our Meet and Greet in April and were welcomed by staff and customers. The patio area is inviting and relaxing and open weather permitting. (It is MN)





NORTHWEST DISTRICT Chapter Grapevines

Edgar Burke, Director
(218) 849-5021 • northwestdir@abatemn.org



HOWDY FOLKS !!!!

Happy New Year! Onto a New Year. Praying that this year comes to us with Good Health and keeps us safe.

It's Gunna Be a GOOD YEAR! Maybe It's a Good Year for you to get a New or Different Bike. Maybe it's a Good Year for you to get a new Job. Maybe it's a Good Year for you to give just a little more to help YOUR Chapter out.

I've always said there is fun with numbers. The more that help out the More Fun Everyone has! I've enjoyed being part of this organization for many years. There is a LOT of great talent out there. You know who you are.

BIKERDAY at The Capitol!! THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY TO MOTORCYCLISTS!!! March 25th. Fill the Bus. Maybe we will be able to ride this year!!

A.B.A.T.E. U - Alexandria - April 17th -19th. There are two different raffles going on for A.B.A.T.E. U this year! Gunna be Fun!

Heartland STEAM 2026 ! March 20th - Alexandria. This is a great time to talk with bikers from the surrounding states and see how they do things in their state. Please take time to help out so we can show the other states that WE CARE!

Caucuses are coming in February. Get involved with YOUR local congress folks. You would be surprised how they listen to YOUR Concerns. THEY Work For YOU. Use your resources.

The Bikes are cold. The Fish house is warm. Gather there with Family and Friends.

TAKE CARE and RIDE FREE!!!na miss all the good stuff she made.

TAKE CARE and RIDE FREE — *Edgar*

BORDERLAND
No Report Received

NORTH STAR
No Report Received

FREEDOM FIRST RIDERS
No Report Received

HEART OF THE LAKES

Next Meeting(s):

January 9th, The Cactus, Perham, 7:00 pm

Wow, January ... where did last year go? Let's hope that everyone's holidays went well and were full of well spent family time. I am hoping, next month I will be able to say our Chapter raffle was a total success.

As we look at the new year, maybe ask yourself what you are going to stand for this year. Think about touching base with our legislative team at legislativeteam@abatemn.org to see what issues we are rounding on in 2026. Start thinking about contacting your legislative people and earn your Write To Ride patch.

If you haven't attended a Heartland STEAM event, this year is the year to do so. It is March 20th-22nd at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria.

Gods smile on you all.

– Jess

NORTHWEST

Next Meeting(s):

January 10th, The Spot, Red Lake Falls, 4:00 pm
February 21st, Rusty Nail, Thief River Falls, 5:00 pm

Upcoming Event(s):

February 21st, Winter Social, Rusty Nail, Thief River Falls

Awesome turnout for the December meeting in Fertile. Lots of discussion on upcoming events and holiday cheer was had.

Again, save the date for our Winter Social at the Rusty Nail in Thief River Falls on February 21st. Monthly meeting is at 5:00 pm. Social Hour starts at 6:00 pm with freewill meal and Hillbilly Rock band plays 9:00 pm-1:00 am.

Happy New Year to all!

– Ben



NORTHEAST DISTRICT Chapter Grapevines

Kent Verner, Director
(218) 343-7826 • northeastdir@abatemn.org



Hey everyone! As you are reading this article we are starting a new year. How exciting it is to begin anew, mentally and physically. Let's all start the year with a positive mindset, towards others and our mission. This last year challenged us with things that were out of our control. Let's step back and assess our goals and get back to our grass roots-lobbying, membership retention, and fundraising. You know, back to the basics.

The January B.O.D. will come with some challenges. If you are interested in the future of this organization, please step up and accept an officer position. Either at the state or chapter level. There are also committees that need people to help with the work load.

Heartland STEAM is in March and volunteers are still needed. Please try to attend as there will be like-minded people from seven states gathering to share ideas.

A.B.A.T.E. U is coming up fast and is looking to be quite the event. It is three days of classes that will inform you on chapter officer duties and help you be better informed individuals. Again, let's start this new year full of positive energy to come together to accomplish the goals of A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota.

Make note of Bikerday at the Capitol too. Let's fill the rotunda with leather. Looking forward to conversations with all of you soon.

– Pedro

JACK PINE RIDERS

Next Meeting(s):

January 18th, American Legion, Pine City,

1:00 pm

February 15th, Bogey's on Main, Hinkley,

1:00 pm

March 15th, Buffalo Tracks, Banning Junction,

1:00 pm

April 19th, Mavericks Bar and Grill, Beroun,

1:00 pm

Happy New Year! Hope everyone enjoyed themselves at the Jack Pine Riders annual Christmas party. Thank you to all that attended, and Thanks to Buffalo Tracks Bar and Grill.

It's time again for chapter elections. Nominations for chapter officers will be accepted at the January and February meetings. Elections will be held at the March meeting.

The next roadside cleanup is scheduled for May 17th at 11:00 am sharp. Chapter meeting to follow highway clean up. The last cleanup had a great turn out. Thank you to all who helped out with this worthwhile endeavor.

NORTHEAST

Next Meeting(s):

January 7th, Gopher Bar and Grill, West Duluth,

6:30 pm

February 4th, Gopher Bar and Grill, West

Duluth, 6:30 pm

Hello all,

We are nearing Christmas as I write this. And by the time you all read this it will be 2026. The summer passed awfully fast. But the good news is that this winter seems to be doing the same.

Keep in mind, you do not need to be a Jack Pine Riders member to attend any J.P.R. event. Members are encouraged to attend. And better yet, members are encouraged to bring a friend. Non-members are encouraged to stop by and see what we are all about.

For more events, check the Road Noise Calendar of Events. Also be sure to check your sister chapter grapevines for more events. For updated chapter/ events and information, log on to our website:

<http://www.jackpineriders.org>

Or check out the Jack Pine Riders Facebook page.

– Respectfully, The Grapevine Jesus

SAND DUNES

UP NORTH

No Repors Received

We had our annual white elephant gift giveaway. We held it after our December meeting and had lots of fun gifts and a good turnout, despite the single digit temperatures. It's nice to be seeing friends and neighbors out and about around the holidays.

By the time this comes out it will be a couple of weeks until the January B.O.D. Seems like we just had the October B.O.D. But that's not a bad thing.

Ride safe,

– Ed

CENTRAL

Next Meeting(s):

January 4th, Sal's Bar, St. Joe, 12:00 pm
February 1st, Triple R, Kimball, 12:00 pm
March 8th, VFW East, St. Cloud, 12:00 pm
April 12th, Trobecs, St. Stephens, 12:00 pm

Upcoming event(s):

January 4th, Holiday Party, Sal's Bar, St. Joe

A special thank you to Rollies in Sauk Rapids for hosting our December meeting.

Nominations will take place during the meeting. So if you would like to support the chapter by running for a position or nominating someone, come out to this meeting to do so. We will then have a chapter member only holiday party after the meeting. Approximate start time will be 1:15 pm for that. Chicken dinner and a white elephant gift exchange. Bring a wrapped \$20-25 practical gift if you would like to participate in the game. Please RSVP on the Facebook event page or to Jen Heggstad.

Don't forget it is a holiday party so dress in something festive! Hope to see you there. The March meeting will be voting for officers. If you would like to vote but cannot make it, you can request an absentee ballot from the State. Those need to be requested by February 8th!

May 30th will be our 3rd Annual Ride for Terebinth Ride and Auction. Mark your calendars for this great time for a great cause!

Central Chapter members have been keeping themselves busy this fall and winter so far. Some enjoyed their time out at Metro Chapters Taco Night, East Central Turkey Bowling and South Central Toys for Kids. Everyone enjoyed all the events and of course the company.

Until next month,

Ling and Cowboy





EAST CENTRAL

Next Meeting(s):

- January 4th, American Legion, St Francis, 10:30 am
- February 1st, American Legion, St Francis, 10:30 am
- March 1st, American Legion, St Francis, 10:30 am

Upcoming Event(s):

- January 5th, Metro Chapter's Meet and Eat, Welch's Big 10, Arden Hills, 4:00-8:00 pm
- January 16th-17th, B.O.D. meeting, Willmar
- January 31st, Lake Chapter's Grounded Hogs Party, Rockford Township Hall, 6:00-11:00 pm
- February 7th, East Central's Valentines Heart-On, St Francis American Legion, 1:00-5:00 pm
- March 20th-22nd, Heartland STEAM, Alexandria Holiday Inn
- March 25th, Bikerday at the Capitol



We're getting ready for our Valentines Heart-On on February 7th. ATTENTION CHAPTER MEMBERS! We are in need of donations to our live auction! Let Toni McChesney or President Jim know if you can help out.

The B.O.D. is coming up this month in Willmar at the Best Western Plus. There are some changes coming up that will be of interest to all. Elections are coming and there is an opportunity to make a difference.

It's worth thinking about...This is the only organization in this State that will defend and protect your right to ride a motorcycle. The people who make the laws in this State know little to nothing about what we do, so make sure you're available on March 25th to show them you care and why they should too.

That's all for now, 'til next time...Shiny Side up!

– President Jim

Hey All,

Happy New Year one and all! A great big THANK YOU going out to all who participated in Turkey Bowling! It was a huge success with over \$1,250 and 200 lbs. of food split between 2 of our local food shelves and a truckload of toys plus \$150 in cash to the St Francis Lion's Toys for Tots program. I don't know about you, but the Holidays hit me like a ton of bricks this year! They just came up so fast it seems like a blur. I hope everyone had a great and safe Christmas and like me had a belly full of great food.

Looking ahead, there is quite a bit coming up.

METRO

Next Meeting(s):

January 13th, VFW, Coon Rapids, 7:00 pm

Upcoming Event(s):

Meet and Eat, the first Monday of the month,
4:00 - 8:00 pm

Bruch, Route 47, the third Sunday of the month,
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

March 14th, St Patty's Warm Up, 6:00 - 10:00 pm

March 28th - 29th, Donnie Smith Bike Show

Happy New Year my fellow riders. I hope you are all staying warm and busy in these long winter months. I know I for one miss hopping on my bike and just riding. Many of you may have made resolutions for 2026 and I know that I am resolving to make this the best motorcycle year yet! Building Metro Chapter, fostering friendships and partnerships with other chapters, and of course, lots of motorcycle rides. And while we may be a couple months out from the rides we can still accomplish so much!

As I look back on 2025, I am so thankful for the family this community has created. Family I never would have known if it wasn't for A.B.A.T.E. From going to turkey bowling with East Central and other events such as the Vikingfest, Christmas tree lightings, and even going out for epic Bloody Mary's. This community has brought such a sense of family to me and I hope it has to you too! I want to hear all your stories about the family you have

gained from being an A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota member.

And I have the perfect opportunity for you to hang out with your Metro Chapter family on March 14th! We are hosting our 3rd annual St. Patty's Day Warmup Party at Route 47 in Fridley from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. What does your ticket get you? 4 hours of free beer. Yes, you heard that right! 4 hours of free tap beer. And what goes better with beer than burgers? Burgers and beer alone are worth coming out. But that's not all! We will have a selfie station set up complete with props. So, grab your loved ones and get goofy! Also planning for the bake sale table is in full gear! So, bring your sweet tooth and indulge a little. You like silent auctions you say? Well, we have one! Our members are already working on putting together baskets that will bring out your competitive side. And you know dang well we are gonna have a band that gets you dancing on the floor all night! Presale tickets will be available soon from our chapter members so reach out and don't miss this party!

To finish off, we are now 3 months into our Metro Meet and Eat. If you haven't made it to one yet here's what you have missed... a broasted chicken buffet, a spaghetti buffet, and pizza and wings buffet. As well as many laughs and friends. The buffet changes monthly so be sure to come check us out! We host it at Welch's Big 10 the first Monday of every month from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Come hungry and leave happy!

Mark Your Calendars!

BIKER DAY

March 25, 2026



SOUTHEAST DISTRICT Chapter Grapevines



Virgil Legried, Director
(507) 951-0624 • southeastdir@abatemn.org

Greetings Southeast District,

Here it is, a New Year with the same old threats to our motorcycling rights.

On the 3rd of February our precinct caucuses will be held state wide. This is basically the start of the election process that will culminate in November. If you are even the slightest bit interested in seeing the election process from the beginning, it doesn't cost anything but your time to attend. You can go to <https://www.sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/how-elections-work/precinct-caucuses/> to find where you caucus will be held. This information will be available after January 14th, 2026.

As I reported in December, both me and Michele made campaign contributions. We have gotten the receipts and the PCR form to fill out. Filling out the form was short and sweet. So at the time of writing this we are just waiting for the refund to be direct deposited into the accounts.

— Virgil

FLATLANDERS

- Next Meeting(s):
 January 24th, TB3's, Freeborn, 3:00 pm, 1st round of Chapter Officer Nominations
 February 21st, Georges, Geneva, 2:00 pm, 2nd Round of Chapter Officer Nominations
 March 21st, Eagles Nest, Albert Lea, 2:00 pm, Chapter Officer election and results

Hello from the Flatlanders,

As we begin the new year, we would like to wish each of you a very happy New Year. Here we are in January and boy do we know it. Lots of snow and cold, brrrr! Welcome to Minnesota. However, this is not all that January brings, it also brings Chapter and State Officer Nominations. If you want to run for a State Office position but cannot attend the January B.O.D., here is what you need to do. Send an email to the State Coordinator stating that you would accept a nomination for the position that you are interested in. Have someone you know that will be at the January B.O.D. nominate you and you are on the ballot!

We held our annual Christmas celebration in December. We also raised a few hundred dollars by passing the hat at meetings that we donated to Feed a Family. This is a program sponsored by HyVee and the Salvation Army. 5 years ago we switched from bringing a canned item for the food shelf to giving to this program. To date, we have given over \$2,000.

This is only one of the many reasons that I call this group family and feel very blessed to be a part of. So thank you Flatlanders for your generosity and kindness, we really need a lot more of that in the world these days!

To the rest of the Chapters, it is not too late to donate to others in need. If you have gambling funds, spend them. Choose an organization or a person with a hardship and provide them with a little post Christmas gift.

As you know, the Flatlanders take the selling of the raffle tickets very seriously. Now you may ask yourself "Why?" With our sales of tickets and the payback we received, we were able to help multiple individuals. This past year we gave \$750 to a member's son who was hit by a car on his motorcycle, we gave \$1,000 to a new mom and friend of the Flatlanders who's baby was born premature, 1.5oz & 12" long. We also gave a second donation of \$1,500 to Cora, the 11 year old granddaughter of our members, who is on her second round of brain cancer and now identified spine cancer. She is one tough, beautiful little girl who is fighting for her life, and could certainly use as many prayers as possible to see her through this terrible diagnosis. When we pray, powerful things can happen! This is just a few of the donations that we have made because of the money we raised selling raffle tickets.

continued on page 22

Next Meeting(s):

January 8th, Cy's Bar & Grill, Chaska, 7:00 pm,
Fundraiser meeting 6:30 pm
February 5th, Cy's Bar & Grill, Chaska, 7:00 pm
Fundraiser meeting 6:30 pm
March 5th, Cy's Bar & Grill, Chaska, 7:00 pm,
Fundraiser meeting 6:30 pm

Upcoming Event(s):

March 20th-22nd, Heartland STEAM, Holiday Inn,
Alexandria
March 25th, Bikerday at the Capitol

Thank you to our members for making our chapter 2025 pizza Christmas party and meeting a lot of fun and creating memories. Thank you to Evan, our Young Rider, for asking us to donate toys to the less fortunate to make good memories for them too. We will deliver the toys and the 15 Buddy Bears to Bountiful Baskets in Cologne on December 13th during their city Christmas celebration. Our President Jon and Treasurer Kristi will make the presentation with other members who enjoyed the town festivities!

Our chapter was presented the 2025 Bikerday trophy plaque for having the largest percentage of chapter members attending this event!! Congrats to us! Our chapter is also providing a check for \$3000 for Bikerday expenses.

Chapter members and Sgt @ Arms Dave Brandtner and Jim Bengston volunteered to help with the chapter trailer maintenance for the Dial-A-Ride trailer that is housed currently with Bill Ernst, our chapter rep. Dave will cover the cost of a new rim needed and Jim will help with maintenance. Thank you guys!!!

Our chapter will donate \$100 to the Heartland STEAM chapter challenge and \$501 for the Heartland STEAM platinum sponsorship. Our chapter should be proud for our donations.

Thank you to all of our 2025 chapter held positions. Thank you to President Jon for keeping our meetings on track and informational, thanks to Secretary Katie who does an amazing job with the minutes, photos and Facebook posts, thanks to VP Terry for being Jon's backup, thanks to Treasurer Kristi for knowing our chapters dollars business, thanks to our Chapter Rep Bill Ernst for bringing the B.O.D. information to our chapter, and thanks to all our Sgt @ Arms! With that being said..... 2026 elections begin at our January meeting.



Presenting our Buddy Bears to Cologne Bountiful Baskets



**2025 Bikerday Traveling Award!
Members: Katie, Kristi, Char & Nicolle!**



Christmas Party Meeting 2025

FLATLANDERS continued from page 21

One last thing before I sign off for this month... BIKERDAY! There has been enough notice of the date, Wednesday March 25th, that getting on the bus should be much easier this year. Also, this event is at 1:00 pm which means that taking a full day off may not be necessary. I cannot stress enough the importance of registering for this event. You may say, "Well I do not know for sure if I can go", doesn't matter, register anyway. This ensures that an appointment with your Senator and Representative is made. If you cannot go, someone will attend that appointment so that we can reach as many members of government as we can! The best advice I have on this matter is, GET ON THE BUS and ATTEND BIKERDAY 2026.

*"Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass:
it's about learning how to ride in the rain!"*

– Peace, Love and Hugs, Michele Legried

RIVER VALLEY

Next Meeting(s):

January 11th, Eagles Club, Mankato,
12:00pm

February 8th, Eagles Club, Mankato,
12:00pm

March 8th, Eagles Club, Mankato,
12:00pm

Upcoming Event(s):

January 17th, January Thaw
Fundraiser & Dance Party

February (TBD), River Valley

A.B.A.T.E. Third Annual Social

March 25th, Bikerday at the Capitol, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Hello all!

Happy New Year—hello 2026! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a fun filled New Year's celebration! We sure are so looking forward to what this year has in store for our Chapter!

First, a big THANK YOU to our volunteers and everyone who braved the weather to attend our River Valley Membership Drive! Mother Nature gave us a snowy "nope," but the chili was hot, the giveaways were cool, and the company was even better. A special shout-out to Dave's River Valley Harley-Davidson for hosting us—we appreciate you! We'll give it another go this month—stay tuned!

Officer Nominations begin at the January meeting! It's time to think about who you want to see seated at the front table and Sergeant-at-Arms. If you'd like to run, or know someone who should, talk with fellow members so they can nominate you. Don't be afraid to step into a new role; we have plenty of support for anyone willing to guide you. So please consider stepping up to help lead our Chapter into the future. Voting will be at the March meeting.

JANUARY THAW FUNDRAISER & DANCE PARTY is coming up fast—and we are ready to reconnect with our longtime A.B.A.T.E. friends and meet lots of new faces too. So get ready to



dance, laugh, and celebrate with the best people around...that means YOU! Keep an eye on our Facebook page and this month's Road Noise for details. If you've been there before, you already know...it's ALWAYS a great time!

We will be hosting our River Valley A.B.A.T.E. Third Annual Social in the month of February! This is an easy, relaxed way to hang out, laugh, and get to know each other outside of meetings. Past, present, and future members are all welcome! More info coming soon.

Mark your calendars! Bikerday at the Capitol - March 25th, 1pm-5pm, and registration now at abatemn.org. If you've never attended, make 2026 your year...it's one of the most important things we do. It's a chance to show up, be heard and seen, learn, and speak directly with our legislators about motorcycle rights. So go ahead and tell your boss you'll be taking that day off. We need YOU there!

To all our new members, welcome to the family! We can't wait to see you at our meetings and events. And to everyone who renewed—thank you for sticking with us and supporting our mission.

As always, keep paying attention to your Road Noise and Facebook...there are plenty of Chapters during the off season that are having events we can support.

Cheers to an awesome 2026—let's make it one to remember!

— Big D, President

SOUTHEAST LC

Next Meeting(s):

January 18th, VFW, Rochester, 11:30 am
February 15th, VFW, Rochester, 11:30 am
March 15th, VFW, Rochester, 11:30 am

Upcoming Event(s):

January 17th-18th, B.O.D., Willmar
March 19th-21st, Heartland STEAM, Holiday Inn,
Alexandria
March 25th, Bikerday at the Capitol, 1:00 -4:00 pm
April 17th-19th, A.B.A.T.E. U, Holiday Inn, Alexandria

Hi All:

By the time you read this the holidays will have come and gone. Hoping everyone had a great holiday season with family and friends. We don't have a lot going on this month which gives us a chance to think about events for the 2026 year.

Reminder: Bikerday at the Capitol is March 25th from 1-4pm. Buses have already been arranged, I am just waiting for final confirmation on pick up times and locations and will post the pick up times and dates when I get them. Please make every effort to make this event. We need to fill those buses and fill the Rotunda. Registration is open on the A.B.A.T.E. website.

Reminder: A.B.A.T.E. U is April 17th-19th. There will be 2 cash raffles this year-one on Friday night with the top prize of \$15,000 as well as several other cash prizes-only 600 hundred tickets to be sold for this raffle. There will also be a cash raffle on Saturday night with only 800 tickets sold. Top prize for this raffle is \$25,000 and again there will be several other cash prizes. You do not need to be present to win. Terry Panek has tickets for both raffles and they are \$100 per ticket. If you are interested in a ticket, please contact Terry at 507-932-3032 or email Terry at terrypanek10@gmail .com.

Heartland STEAM (Seminar To Educate And Motivate) will be held March 19th-21st at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria. Registration is open on the A.B.A.T.E. website and is \$50 per person. All A.B.A.T.E. members are welcome. Please come and check it out. We have lots of activities and breakout classes planned as well as a banquet on Saturday night.

Also we are thinking about changing the times of our monthly meetings to a time later in the day so those who attend church can come to the meeting. We would like the Chapter input on what times or days would work better than the current time.

Nominations for the officer positions will be held in January and February. Please come to these meetings if you are interested in any of the officer positions as you will need to be nominated and you will need to be present to accept the nomination. As of this time Terry will be stepping down from the Secretary position and Tom agreed to take the Treasurer's position for a year so we may also need a Treasurer.

I think that is it for now. Boy, for not much going on in our chapter, I sure rambled on long enough. So I will say bye for now.

– Terry

STRAIGHT RIVER

Next Meeting(s):

January 11th, L&M, Dundas, 1:00 pm
* Come and make your nominations for Straight River Officer positions
February 8th, The Box Car, Waseca, 1:00 pm
March 8th, American Legion, Owatonna, 1:00 pm
* Elections so make sure to attend and make your vote count

Upcoming Event(s):

February 21st, Straight River Chili feed/contest,
* times and location TBD. Watch our facebook page for updates. Entry fees are paid out to 1st-3rd place for the contest winners. The more entries, the higher your payout!

Happy New Year!

We are 8 month closer to getting the two wheels back on the road! Wishing everyone blessed and safe holidays!

Reminder for the upcoming nominations for the elections in March. So, if anyone is interested in a officers position, get nominated!

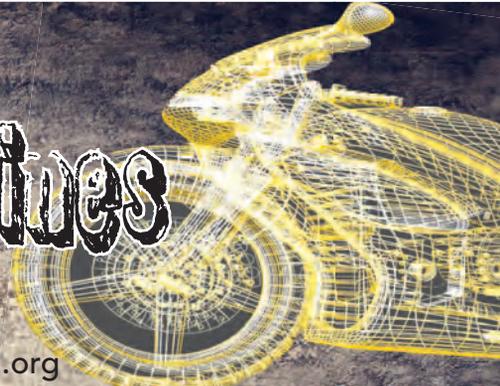
God Bless!

– Mike Smith



SOUTHWEST DISTRICT Chapter Grapevines

Shelly Deutsch, Director
(507) 227-4498 • southwestdir@abatemn.org



January starts the nomination process for Chapters and the State. Chapters get two months to nominate; State level only get the January B.O.D. If you are interested in a position, ask to see the manual to make sure you understand the job. Please don't take a job just for the name badge. Step up, be serious and help.

If you don't want to be a Chapter officer, there are other places to help out! If you attend the Freedom Rally in Algona, think about signing up to work a shift or 2 at our membership table, it is really a fun job! How about signing up to be on the Rally committee, or even volunteering a shift or two there? Again, it really is fun!

Don't forget to get signed up for Bikerday! After all, that is what we are here for, not just going to bike rallies! IF you can't attend, get those phone calls, e-mails, or letters sent in to your legislators.

Heartland STEAM is getting planned and coming together well. Are you signed up? Maybe let the committee know you want to help out and volunteer somewhere.

Until next time, *Shelly*

ROLLING PRAIRIE

Next Meeting(s):

January 3rd, River's Edge Golf Course, St. James,
3:00 pm Committee meeting, 4:00 pm regular
meeting

February 7th, The Village Inn, LaSalle 3:00 pm
Committee meeting, 4:00 pm regular meeting

Upcoming Event(s):

March 14th, 33rd Annual Chili Feed, VFW, St.
James, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

March 20th-22nd, Heartland STEAM, Holiday Inn,
Alexandria

March 25th, Bikerday at the Capital

Happy New Year biker family,

We have been working on our 33rd Annual Chili Feed and getting the details finalized. Advanced tickets are available from chapter members or by calling me at 507-830-0644. They are \$12 in advance and \$15.00 at the door. Multiple varieties of chili and loaded potato soup or sloppy joes as well as various desserts and

bread will be available. Silent auction will be ending at 8:00 pm and all items needing to be paid for and picked up that night unless other arrangements are made. Come try the chili that made at least two people cry at the State Rally.

If you are interested in running for an office position at the chapter or state level, please come to one of our next meetings to review the manual so you know what is expected of you in that position. Remember you must be a current member to make a nomination, accept a nomination, and to vote during the election process. Absentee ballots are available through the State Office but must be requested by February 10th by each individual needing an absentee ballot.

I think that is all for now.

See you soon,

– Giggles

GLACIAL RIDGE

Next Meeting(s):

January 3rd, Jim & Julie's, Regal,
6:00 pm

February 7th, Marcia's Bar,
Brooten, 6:00 pm

Upcoming Event(s):

January 3rd, Jim & Julie for
bonfire & potluck before
meeting

January 10th, Hotdish Contest,
Marcia's

March 7th, PROM!! 7pm-11pm

We had a very short meeting this month. The community asked us if we would serve hot drinks for our Santa Day. We also were in the 2 block parade. That made us visible. People are starting to see that we are part of this community and asking us to join in. That's huge!

Our chapter is concentrating on prom, (you know you want to go). March is coming up fast and it's going to be a busy month.

Our chapter is small, but we are a loyal chapter. We may not have the numbers, yet, that we would like but know that if someone needs something, one of the other members might be able to help. I wouldn't trade that for the world.

I just wanted to say thank you to my chapter, and to A.B.A.T.E. as a whole. When I needed to belong, A.B.A.T.E. showed up very unexpectedly in my life.

ANYWAYS, Stay Safe, stay warm and never stop dreaming!

– Harmony

BUFFALO RIDGE

No Report Received

LAKE

Next Meeting(s):

January 3rd, Choo Choo Bar, Loretto, 3:00 pm

January 31st, Rockford Township Hall, 3:00 pm (February meeting right before the Fundraiser)

March 7th, Tentatively, Red Lodge, Waverly, 3:00 pm

April 4th, S.O.S Clubhouse, Cokato, 3:00 pm

Thank you to Madigan's for hosting our December meeting. The 2025 Steven J Kreitlow award was presented to Maureen O'Hern. Maureen has demonstrated outstanding dedication and contributions to our chapter and we are proud to recognize her. A.B.A.T.E. U raffle tickets are available for purchase. This year there are two drawings. One on Friday night and another on Saturday night. You can either purchase tickets for yourself or sign out some to sell. Your participation in these sales will contribute to funding our gambling account.

We appreciate all the donations that were brought in for our holiday toy drive for the Wright County Food Shelf in Waverly. We collected \$100 in cash, \$120 in gift cards, and a game.

Mark your calendars. The Grounded Hogs fundraiser is scheduled for January 31st, from 6:00 to 11:00 pm. Everett Smithson will be returning to entertain us! If you're interested in sponsoring this event, please reach out to us as soon as possible. Advanced tickets are available for just \$15. Don't delay, as these are going fast!

We are seeking enthusiastic individuals to fill two key roles: a dedicated Membership Coordinator to manage our growth efforts, and someone passionate about our chapter to oversee our chapter products. If either of these positions spark your interest, reach out to either April or Jim.

Chapter calendars are in and going fast. If you haven't got one and want one, contact Jim Kosse.

Chapter officer nominations commence at our January meeting. We encourage each of you to either put your name forward or nominate a deserving individual who you believe possesses the necessary qualities and enthusiasm for these roles. Come to our January meeting to see who is the 2025 Member of the Year!

Thank you to our 2026 Grounded Hogs Sponsors:

Platinum: Frederick Creek Sheet Metal

Super Gold: Bitzer Garage Door Repair,

Gold: Dale Morin, Buzz and Karen Plante, Tri-County A.B.A.T.E. of MN, Family Counseling Center, Lake Bowl, Thirsty Buffalo, Smoker

Silver: Cosmos Motorcycle Supply, Gaida Trout

Until next month my friends- Ride Free

– April

SOUTH CENTRAL

Next Meeting(s):

Meetings Wednesdays at 7:00pm:
January 7th, Horseshoe Bar, Lake Lillian
February 4th, SOS, Cokato
March 4th, Shaggy's Bonfire, Litchfield
April 1st, Shaggy's Bonfire, Litchfield
May 6th, VFW, Hutchinson

Upcoming Event(s):

Saturday, January 10th, Chapter
Christmas Party, LaPlante's, 4:00pm
Wednesday, March 25th, Bikerday at the
Capitol, 1:00pm - 5:00pm
April 17th & 18th, A.B.A.T.E. University
Holiday Inn, Alexandria

While the deep freeze might be on, South Central has still been busy!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped work at, attend, and donated to our Toys for Kids event this year. It was another huge success. We are donating a total of \$2500 to Meeker and McLeod counties, as well as a RECORD NUMBER of toys this year!! A special thank you to Bill and Kristy LaPlante, for organizing this event, collecting all donations, and delivering items to the counties.

This was Kristy's last year hosting this event. We will be looking for someone else in SC to fill her big shoes to chair this event next year. Thank you so much for all your hard work over the years!

We are having our chapter Christmas party at Bill and Kristy's on Saturday, January 10th at 4:00pm potluck style. We hope all our new SC members can attend. This is a great way for us to get to know you!

We are working hard to get the word out about A.B.A.T.E. and South Central, and to increase memberships. Thank you to Noel Huggett for significantly upping our game on social media and our monthly email newsletters, and to Pat Haugen for coordinating our membership efforts and working the membership table wherever she goes!

Happy 2026, hope your Christmas was merry and bright. See you on March 25th for Bikerday at the Capitol!

– Ingrid Cohen



Toys For Kids 2025



The Welcome Table: Peggy, Porkchop & Wyatt!

WAY WEST

Next Meeting(s):

Saturday, January 31st, American Legion, Montevideo
10:00 am
Saturday, February 28th, The Alley Cat, Ortonville 10:00 am

Upcoming Event(s):

January 17th-18th, B.O.D., Wilmar

Greetings all!

I'm sorry I spaced last months Road Noise article. Senior moments happen.

I hope everyone had a Great Christmas. As I write this, I'm preparing to go shopping with other members for Toys for Kids. I'll post pics next month. Thank you to all businesses that donated to our program, truly appreciated.

I'm not a huge fan of winter anymore, I like it for about two days. My body is a genuine barometer and today, it says this is bull#%x!.

Plan on going to the January B.O.D. in Willmar, it is our district putting it on. Heartland STEAM is coming up fast, too, in Alexandria.

Stay safe and warm all, Gypsy Mama

SOUTHWEST

Next Meeting(s):

January 2nd, Rushmore Community Center,
7:00 pm

February 6th, Rushmore Community Center,
7:00 pm

Our little group has lost another dear friend and former member. Pat Lange left this world, after a long and valiant fight with cancer. Pat was our chapter secretary for many years. He gave that up when his health declined.

Pat's wife, Diann gave us a place to hold our summer Burger Feeds, our meetings, winter soup

feeds, and they donated as much of their time in support of A.B.A.T.E. and Pat was always there, assisting Diann, pouring drinks, and just being the good guy he always was. Pat will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with Diann and her family.

Stay warm, folks! Summer will be here sometime around June!

Hoping your Christmas was perfect, and your New Year even better.

Keep our Military and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

- BAM



Hosted by



A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota

36th Annual Heartland STEAM A Seminar to Educate and Motivate March 20-22, 2026

Holiday Inn - Alexandria, MN

\$166 plus tax per night

Call the hotel directly at 320-763-6577

Ask for the Heartland STEAM block of rooms

Join members of motorcycle rights groups from Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Nebraska as we discuss information and training to assist motorcyclists in defending, building and strengthening their organizations.

**Heartland STEAM is a fundraiser for the
M.R.F. - Motorcycle Riders Foundation**

Register online at abatemn.org

Or Mail in Registration with check or money order payable to - **A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota.**

___\$50.00 on or before February 20th, 2026 ___\$60.00 fee after February 20th, 2026

Name: _____

ABATE/SMRO: _____

Postal Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

T-shirt is not included in registration price.

Please complete the following if interested:

T-shirt \$20.00 extra T-shirt size _____

T-shirt color (circle one) Bright Blue or Ash Gray

Mail to - **A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota**
16550 226th Ave NW
Elk River MN 55330

Questions and Credit Card Registration Issues
call Shelly at (507) 227-4498
email StateOffice@abatemn.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Chapter	Location	Time
1/2/2026	Southwest Chapter Meeting	Rushmore Community Center, Rushmore	7:00 PM
1/3/2026	Glacial Ridge Bonfire & Potluck	Jim & Julie's	
1/3/2026	Glacial Ridge Chapter Meeting	Marcia's Bar, Brooten	6:00 PM
1/3/2026	Lake Chapter Meeting	Choo Choo Bar, Loretto	3:00 PM
1/3/2026	Rolling Prairie Chapter Christmas Party	River's Edge Golf Course, St. James	5:00 PM
1/3/2026	Rolling Prairie Chapter Meeting	River's Edge Golf Course, St. James	4:00 PM
1/3/2026	Rolling Prairie Chili Feed	River's Edge Golf Course, St. James	3:00 PM
1/4/2026	Central Chapter Meeting	Sal's Bar, St. Joseph - Christmas party to follow	12:00 PM
1/4/2026	East Central Chapter Meeting	American Legion, St. Francis	10:30 AM
1/4/2026	Ways and Means Committee Meeting	Ugly Bar, Montrose	12:00 PM
1/5/2026	Metro Chapter Meet & Eat	Welch's Big 10, Arden Hills	4-8:00 PM
1/6/2026	ABATE U Committee Meeting	Zoom meeting	6:00 PM
1/7/2026	Northeast Chapter Meeting	Gopher Bar & Grill, West Duluth	6:30 PM
1/7/2026	South Central Chapter Meeting	Horseshoe Bar, Lake Lillian	
1/8/2026	TriCounty Chapter Meeting	Cy's Bar, Chaska	7:00 PM
1/10/2026	Glacial Ridge Hot Dish Contest	Marcia's	
1/10/2026	Northwest Chapter Meeting	The Spot, Red Lake Falls	4:00 PM
1/10/2026	South Central Christmas Party	Laplante's	4:00 PM
1/11/2026	River Valley Chapter Meeting	Eagles Club, Mankato	12:00 PM
1/11/2026	Sand Dunes Chapter Meeting	The Getaway Bar & Grill, Big Lake	5:00 PM
1/11/2026	Straight River Chapter Meeting	L&M, Dundas	1:00 PM
1/13/2026	Metro Chapter Meeting	VPW, Coon Rapids	7:00 PM
1/15/2026	Motorcycle Safety Task Force Committee Meeting	virtual via Microsoft Teams	5-7:00 PM
1/16/2026	BOD Meeting	Willmar	
1/16/2026	Gambling Committee Meeting	BOD Location	6:00 PM
1/16/2026	Rally Committee Meeting	BOD Location	8:00 PM
1/17/2026	BOD Meeting	Willmar	
1/17/2026	River Valley Chapter January Thaw Annual Fundraiser and Dance Party		
1/18/2026	Jack Pine Riders Chapter Meeting	American Legion, Pine City	1:00 PM
1/18/2026	Metro Chapter Brunch Buffet	Route 47, Fridley	8 AM-12:00 PM
1/18/2026	Southeast LC Chapter Meeting	VPW, Rochester	11:30 AM
1/24/2026	Flatlanders Chapter Meeting	TB-3's, Freeborn	3:00 PM
1/31/2026	Lake Chapter Grounded Hogs Party	Rockford Township Hall, Rockford	6-11:00 PM
1/31/2026	Lake Chapter Meeting	Rockford Township Hall, Rockford (Feb Meeting, prior to fundraiser)	3:00 PM
1/31/2026	Way West Chapter Meeting	American Legion, Montevideo	10:00 AM
2/1/2026	Central Chapter Meeting	Triple R, Kimball	12:00 PM
2/1/2026	East Cental Chapter Meeting	American Legion, St. Francis	10:30 AM
2/3/2026	Rolling Prarie Chapter Meeting	Village Inn, LaSalle	4:00 PM
2/3/2026	Rolling Prarie Chili Feed	Village Inn, LaSalle	3:00 PM
2/4/2026	Northeast Chapter Meeting	Gopher Bar & Grill, West Duluth	6:30 PM
2/4/2026	South Central Chapter Meeting	SOS. Cokato	7:00 PM
2/5/2026	TriCounty Chapter Meeting	Cy's Bar, Chaska	7:00 PM
2/6/2026	Southwest Chapter Meeting	Rushmore Community Center, Rushmore	7:00 PM
2/7/2026	East Central Chapter Heart-On Valentine Fundraiser	American Legion, St. Francis	1-5:00 PM
2/7/2026	Glacial Ridge Chapter Meeting	Marcia's Bar, Brooten	6:00 PM
2/7/2026	Rolling Prairie Chapter Meeting	The Village Inn, LaSalle	4:00 PM
2/8/2026	River Valley Chapter Meeting	Eagles Club, Mankato	12:00 PM
2/8/2026	Straight River Chapter Meeting	Eagles Blub, Makato	12:00 PM
2/15/2026	Jack Pine Riders Chapter Meeting	Bogey's on Main, Hinkley	1:00 PM
2/21/2026	Flatlanders Chapter Meeting	Georges, Geneva	2:00 PM
2/21/2026	Northwest Chapter Winter Social	Rusty Nail, Thief River Falls	5:00 PM
2/21/2026	Rally Committee Meeting	Shaggy's Bonfire, Litchfield	12:00 PM
2/21/2026	Straight River Chapter Chillli Feed/Contest	TBD	
2/28/2026	Way West Chapter Meeting	Alley Cat, Ortonville	10:00 AM
3/1/2026	East Central Chapter Meeting	American Legion, St. Francis	10:30 AM
3/4/2026	South Central Chapter Meeting	Shaggy's Bonfire, Litchfield	7:00 PM
3/5/2026	TriCounty Chapter Meeting	Cy's Bar, Chaska	7:00 PM
3/7/2026	Glacial Ridge Chapter Prom	VPW, Belgrade	7:00 PM
3/7/2026	Lake Chapter Meeting	Red Lodge (Tentative), Waverly	3:00 PM
3/8/2026	Central Chapter Meeting	VPW East. St. Cloud	12:00 PM
3/8/2026	River Valley Chapter Meeting	Eagles Club, Mankato	12:00 PM
3/8/2026	Straight River Chapter Meeting	American Legion, Owatonna	1:00 PM
3/14/2026	Metro Chapter St. Pattys Warm up	Route 47, Fridley	6-10:00 PM
3/14/2026	Rally Committee Meeting	Shaggy's Bonfire, Litchfield	12:00 PM
3/14/2026	Rolling Prairie Chapter Chili Feed	VPW, St. James	
3/15/2026	Jack Pine Riders Chapter Meeting	Buffalo Tracks, Banning Jundtion	1:00 PM
3/15/2026	Southeast LC Chapter Meeting	VPW, Rochester	11:30 AM
3/20/2026	Heartland STEAM	Holiday Inn, Alexandria	
3/21/2026	Flatlanders Chapter Meeting	Eagels Nest, Albert Lea	2:00 PM
3/21/2026	Heartland STEAM	Holiday Inn, Alexandria	
3/21/2026	Rally Committee Meeting	Eagles Club, Litchfield	12:00 PM
3/22/2026	Heartland STEAM	Holiday Inn, Alexandria	
3/25/2026	Bikerday at the Capitol	St. Paul	



A.B.A.T.E. OF MINNESOTA 2026 STATE MOTORCYCLE RALLY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota (American Bikers for Awareness, Training, and Education), a not-for-profit motorcycle rights organization (501(c)(4)), is seeking sponsors for our 2026 State Rally, taking place **September 4-7th, 2026** at the **Meeker County Fairgrounds in Litchfield, MN.**

Sponsorship Levels

A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota is 3,500 members strong and growing, and our goal for attendance is 2,000 motorcycle enthusiasts. Our members proudly support the businesses who support them.

Partnering with us provides your business with generous recognition and advertising with your company name and logo published in our Road Noise magazine, state website, social media, and the Rally Program.

Please note: Sponsorships are not tax deductible as a charitable donation but may qualify as a business expense. Please consult your tax advisor.

Entertainment Sponsorship

We also have an Entertainment Sponsorship!

You will receive:

- Premier stage and band hub signage
- Business card ad in our State Rally Program
- Additional shout out on stage before the bands start

**Minimum sponsorship would be \$200.



Thank you for your consideration.

Deadline to be included in our State Rally Program is August 1st, 2026.

DIAMOND SPONSORSHIP - \$3,000

- Premier stage and band hub signage
- Full-page ad in our Rally Program
- 12 Complimentary Rally Tickets



GOLD SPONSORSHIP - \$1,000

- Mid-size stage and band hub signage
- Half page ad in our Rally Program
- 6 Complimentary Rally Tickets



SILVER SPONSORSHIP - \$500

- Stage and band hub signage
- Quarter page ad in our Rally Program
- 4 Complimentary Rally Tickets



CHROME SPONSORSHIP - \$250

- Stage and band hub signage
- Business card ad in our Rally Program
- 2 Complimentary Rally Tickets



COPPER SPONSORSHIP - \$100

- Stage and band hub signage
- Business card ad in our Rally Program
- 1 Complimentary Rally Ticket



GET READY TO BE PART OF SOMETHING GREAT!!! BECOME A SPONSOR!!!

Want to sign up online?

Scan the QR code:



See reverse side to sign up by mail or in person.

2026 A.B.A.T.E. State Rally Sponsorship Form

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Business Contact Phone Number: _____

Business Contact Email Address: _____

Business Contact Name: _____

CHOOSE YOUR SPONSORSHIP

Choose your sponsorship level: DIAMOND GOLD SILVER CHROME COPPER

Sponsorship Amount: \$ _____

**Minimum \$200.00

How would you like to receive your tickets?

- Mail tickets to Company Contact
- Tickets will be mailed mid-July 2026
- Tickets at Will Call

Contact Name: _____

How should we announce your name on stage?

* Identification will be required or Will Call

SPONSORSHIP SUBMISSION OPTIONS

By Mail: Mail this form, fee, and a copy of your business card/logo to:

Michelle Backlund
16550 226th Ave. NW
Elk River, MN 55330

***Do not staple or deteriorate the soon quality of your business card or logo when sending by mail.

In Person: Call your recruiting A.B.A.T.E. member to have them pick up your form, fee, and business card/logo:

Recruiting Member Name: _____

Chapter Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Online: Scan the QR code on the reverse side to submit your form, fee, and business card/logo at our State website.

Sponsorship Questions? Contact Michelle 'Michi' Backlund
 Phone: 763-263-1532 Email: statetreasurer@abatemn.org
 For more information about A.B.A.T.E. visit www.abatemn.org



A.B.A.T.E. OF MINNESOTA



RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

**ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
AND DANCE PARTY**

JANUARY THAW

**\$10 IN ADVANCED
\$12 AT THE DOOR**



January 17th, 2026

7:00 PM - 12:30 AM

**PLEASE BRING A
NON-PERISHABLE ITEM
FOR THE ECHO FOOD SHELF**

ENJOY LIVE MUSIC FEATURING

**SILENT AUCTION
GREAT FOOD
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GOOD TIMES**



**MANKATO EAGLES CLUB
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MANKATO, MN**

~Advanced Tickets Call...Lori Sotebeer 612-281-7194~

**Donations to ABATE of MN are not tax deductible.
Must be 18 and older to attend this event.**

NEW & RENEWALS FOR NOVEMBER 2025

BORDERLAND

David /Amy CarlsonR
Richard OlsonN

CENTRAL

Kenuto MedranoR
Dan VetschN

EAST CENTRAL

Larry WilsonR
Lorna EricksonR
Sylvester /Elise NagelN
Dan Hein /Julie PinoschukR
Mark ChristensenR

FLATLANDERS

Randy HendersonR
Mark PetersonN
Kipp /Chrisy FullerR

FREEDOM FIRST RIDERS

Norman SchlosserR
Greg NiblettR
Corrie /Diane MattocksR
Tyler Hanson /Sara Anderson .R
Mike KopeR

GLACIAL RIDGE

Todd Lund /GlenamarieR
John A NelsonR

HEART OF THE LAKES

Cody BrownN
Jeremy /Paula BimbergR
Mike /Lori BurkeR
Julie JonesR

JACK PINE RIDERS

Liz OvickR

LAKE

Tom BermelR
Logan WeilandR
Evan B Komar /Carole E Kruse R
Chad /Ashley PeppinN
Karen May /Buzz PlanteR
Todd RibaR
James /Rosa KreitlowR
Scott EricksonR
Sheryl Immel /Joe DotyR
Scott "Hayseed" /

Beverly AverillR
Tom Grether/Brittney Fields .R
Olga StrobelR
Jim KosseR
Dave /Jeanne TruaxR
Dan /Carol BitzerR

METRO

Randy SwensonR
Barb JerdeN
Mathew LemkeN
Aron LemkeN
Sylvester /Elise NagelN
Beth JuracekN
Christopher KampR
Quintin NelsonR
Eric Bout-it/ Patricia Bout-it .R
Gary FeidtR

Robert BenjaminR

NORTH STAR

John "AB" /Lydia CollerR
Jeffery/Joanne FinleyR

NORTHWEST

David Korbel /
Rosalyn KnutsonR

RIVER VALLEY

Lacey EmbacherN
Ricky MelvinR

ROLLING PRAIRIE

David /Lynette Leinenweber .R
Douglas /Karen McLellanR
Benjamin AndertR

SAND DUNES

Buzz Plante /Karen MayR

SOUTH CENTRAL

Kathy BogatzkiR
Charlie /Mary ArdolfR
Myah ZwartR
Steve "Dobs" Dobmeier /
Joyce MelsonR
Richard Dean Peters IIIN
Ricky /Christine NelsonN
Paul /Deb DesJardinR

SOUTHEAST LC

Dan KlankowskiR
Jay HunterN

TRI-COUNTY

Jon Fernholz /

Kristy LuhmanR

Gerry SimonR
Gerry ValentineR
Dawn /Todd RibaR
Gerry Berger/ Paul Kleaver .R
Brent Richard AretzR

UP NORTH

Todd DobleR
James YanezR
Bryan DotyN

WALL WEST

Paul TjepkesR
James TonnR
Jesse SchluetekR
Eric LesterN

 A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota Inc. Preliminary Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Saturday January 17, 2025 9:00 AM Best Western Plus, Wilmar MN		
Opening	9:00 AM Call to order	Jane Doyle
	Pledge of Allegiance and Welcome	Shelly Deutsch
	Invocation	Edgar Burke
	Roll call	Michele Legried
	Agenda approval / changes	Jane Doyle
	Secretary Report – Oct. 2025	Michele Legried
	Treasurer's Report	Michelle Backlund
Legislative Reports	Legislative Team	Team Member(s)
	Motorcycle PAC of MN	Mark Senn
	NCOM (National Coalition of Motorcyclists)	Jane Doyle
	MRF (Motorcycle Riders Foundation)	Rob Benjamin
	Write to Ride	Frank Ernst
	A.B.A.T.E. University	Stephanie Christensen
	Education	Jon Fernholz
Committee Reports (Committee Chairs submit written reports, up to 5 minutes for verbal report, if more time needed request in advance)	Young Riders Program	Harmony Lillie
	Gambling	Angie Morberg
	Buddy Bear Program	Sharon Polman
	Historian	Gaida Trout
	Marketing	Harmony Lillie
	Membership & Member Retention	April Murch
	Passport Run	Jon Smith/Em' DeJager
	Products	Kari Duncan
	Publications	Tammy Winkels
	State Rally	Dougie Cohen
	Ways and Means	Kristy Luhman
	State Office	Shelly Deutsch
	MCDAR (Motorcycle Dial-A-Ride)	Kyla Baker
	Motorcycle Safety Advisory Task Force	Jon Fernholz
MN Motorcycle Club Coalition & Confederation of Clubs of MN	Frank Ernst and Jane Doyle	
Old Business	Heartland STEAM 2026	
	Bikerday 2026	
New Business	Precinct Caucuses	
	A.B.A.T.E. Rider Scholarships	
	Product Inventory	
	2026 Proposed Budget (April 2026 through March 2027)	
	By-Law Proposals	
	State Officer Nominations	
Officer Reports	Treasurer	Michelle Backlund
	Secretary	Michele Legried
	Southwest District Director	Shelly Deutsch
	Northwest District Director	Edgar Burke
	Northeast District Director	Kent Verner
	Southeast District Director	Virgil Legried
	Assistant State Coordinator	Jim Orn
	Trustee	Mack Backlund
	State Coordinator	Jane Doyle
	ANNOUNCEMENTS /ADJOURNMENT	

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Silver Lake Legion

Post #141

241 Main St. W.
Silver Lake, MN 55381

A.L. R Director James L. Nowak
Phone: 320-583-8264
www.jdnowak@hotmail.com

Riding for America's Future
www.legion.org/riders.




Lake Chapter
A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota

GROUNDED HOGS

WINTER BIKER PARTY



Saturday, January 31, 2026

For tickets or information, contact Keith "Smoker" Efron: 612-703-5755

Rockford Township Hall, Buffalo
3039 Dague Ave SE, Buffalo, MN 55313
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

- Free beer, wine, set-ups & buffet (while they last)
- Bring in your own beverages for free
- Silent and live auctions
- Free sober cab provided by Minnesota Motorcycle Dial-A-Ride



Music from 7:00-11:00 pm by
**The
Everett Smithson Band**

Tickets:
\$15 advance
\$20 at the door

HOTELS:
Super 8: 763-682-5930
Country Inn & Suites: 651-461-4954
Grand Stay Hotel & Suites, Delano: 763-972-4303

*A portion of the proceeds will go to Motorcycle PAC of Minnesota and the Motorcycle Riders Foundation.
Donations to A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota are not tax deductible.*



Pre-sale tickets \$20.00
At the door \$25.00
Tickets contact 320-583-6162

WANNA
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Hotel Reservations:
Ask for the Glacial Ridge block
320-243-4146

YES NO

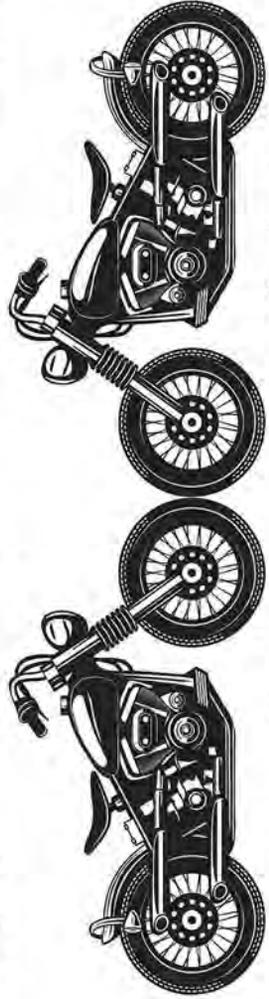
Wear your best
biker gear!

Music and karaoke
by DJ Wonderful!

Glacial Ridge Chapter of A.B.A.T.E. Biker Theme Prom

American Legion
770 Diekmann Dr., Paynesville
March 7th, 2026

Games, silent auction, prizes
7:00pm-11:00pm
Karaoke, dancing, food



Donations are not tax deductible

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At The Minnesota State Capitol

March
2026
1pm - 5pm

25TH

New Time



Register By March 5, 2026 at: www.abatemn.org

For more information contact

A.B.A.T.E.

of Minnesota State Office

stateoffice@abatemn.org

507-487-5000



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EAST CENTRAL A.B.A.T.E of
CHAPTER MINNESOTA



Location:

American Legion
3073 Bridge St. NW
St. Francis, MN 55070



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for more information: A.B.A.T.E. of MN-East Central Chapter

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Check your expiration date. Please use the form below to re-new your membership with A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota, so that you may continue to receive the Road Noise and be informed!

I Want To Be A Part Of A.B.A.T.E.!

(Applicants 18 years of age and older)
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name 1: _____

Name 2: _____
Associate Name

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

E-Mail: _____

Renewal: Yes No

Over 18: Yes No Under 21: Yes No

Chapter: _____

If left blank the correct area chapter will be assigned.

Dues:

- 1 year \$30.00 Single or \$50.00 per couple.
- 2 years \$60.00 Single or \$100.00 per couple.
- 3 years \$90.00 Single or \$150.00 per couple.
- 5 years \$150.00 Single or \$250.00 per couple.

Make checks payable to:

A.B.A.T.E. OF MINNESOTA

P.O. Box 142, Mapleton, MN 56065

Charge to: Visa Mastercard

Exp: _____

Card #: _____

Signature: _____

MOTORCYCLE PAC OF MINNESOTA

Unless you opt-out by signing below, \$3.00 from your yearly membership dues will go to Motorcycle PAC of Minnesota, a Political Action Committee of Minnesota Motorcyclists.

Opt-Out:

Signature: _____

MINNESOTA GOVERNOR

Governor Tim Walz

130 State Capitol 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155
(800) 657-3717

U.S. SENATORS

Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) <https://klobuchar.senate.gov>
302 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3244 Fax: (202) 228-2186

Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) <https://smith.senate.gov>
309 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5641 Fax: (202) 224-0044

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST DISTRICT

Brad Finstad (R-MN) <https://finstad.house.gov>
1605 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2472

SECOND DISTRICT

Angie Craig (D-MN) • <https://craig.house.gov>
1523 Longworth Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2271

THIRD DISTRICT

Kelly Morrison (D-MN) • <https://morrison.house.gov/>
1205 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2871

FOURTH DISTRICT

Betty McCollum (D-MN) • <https://mccollum.house.gov>
2256 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6631 Fax: (202) 225-1968

FIFTH DISTRICT

Ilhan Omar (D-MN) <https://omar.house.gov>
1517 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4755

SIXTH DISTRICT

Tom Emmer (R-MN) <https://emmer.house.gov>
315 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2331 Fax: (202) 225-6475

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Michelle Fischbach (R-MN) • <https://fischbach.house.gov>
1004 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2165

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Pete Stauber (R-MN) • <https://stauber.house.gov>
126 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6211

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/leginfo/cong.pdf>