

A.B.A.T.E of Minnesota - Metro Chapter
Coon Rapids V.F.W.
January 13th, 2026
Metro Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

President: Jameson Lemke Vice President: Brian Ladoux
Treasurer: Joe "JJ" Jones Secretary: Shannon Bros
Chapter Rep: Shannon Bros

Sgt at Arms: Eric Bout-it

Members: Marcia Borchardt, Rob Drometer, Rob Benjamin, Sylvester Nagle, Aron Lemke, Carol Edison, Patricia Griffith, Jay Pederson, Andrew Godfrey, Mark "Jake" Jacobs, Putz, TMO Plague. Total members in attendance: 17.

Guests: Dale Peterson, Jeffrey Johnson. Total guests in attendance: 2.

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

Secretary Report: The chapter looked over the minutes from last month's meeting. Motion to accept secretary report as read, made by Rob, seconded by Marcia. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer Report: The chapter saw income from free will donations, Welch's Big 10, and memberships. Expenses for postage for chapter mailings, Motion to accept Treasurer's Report made by Rob, seconded by Marcia B. All in favor, motion passed.

Chapter Rep Report: Everyone is encouraged to attend Heartland Steam. It will be held at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria March 20th-22nd of 2026. There will be 7 states in attendance. You can register online and call the hotel directly for reservations. They are still looking for volunteer help. A current list of needed volunteers will be made available. The chapter is building a basket to donate to the silent auction. A motion was made to donate \$250 for the chapter challenge for Steam by Rob, seconded by Putz. After discussion the motion to donate \$250 failed. Motion amended by Rob to donate \$150 to Heartland Steam, seconded by Eric. All in favor, motion passed. Motion to accept the Chapter Rep report made by Marcia, seconded by Rob. All in favor, motion passed.

Chapter Committee Reports:

Membership Committees, events and updates

--Membership Activity & Event Committees

--Current list of expired members will be picked up at the January BOD

--Member Training & Activities Committee: Nothing scheduled at this time.

State Rally Report: Rally planning is underway! More specific details to come. The sled pull

is back with cash prizes for the winner of the pulls.

Legislative Business: Meeting of the Minds to be held in Milwaukee. Visit MRF.org for more details.

New Business:

– Buddy bears, we are looking at donating more to Ronald McDonald House and some other local businesses helping displaced families. A motion to purchase 75 buddy bears was made by Eric, seconded by Rob. All in favor, motion passed. A second motion was made to use the money Metro has in the gambling account with the rest of the cost coming from general funds. Motion made by Eric, seconded by Rob. All in favor, motion passed.

– Tickets and flyers have been printed and are available for sale and to pass out. The band this year will be Pandemic Rocks. The event will be held on March 14th, 2026 from 6-10pm at Route 47 in Fridley. The tickets include free tap beer, pop, and a burger basket. Silent auction items are harder to come by this year so we are encouraging all members who are able to donate a basket or funds to build one to please reach out to Shannon or Jameson. Shannon is also looking for anyone who would like to bake or donate ingredients for the bake sale.

– Donnie Smith booth is reserved. This will be an all ABATE of MN booth being hosted by Metro. The date is March 28th and 29th. The new tablecloths and tables have been delivered. Signage will be picked up before the event. We are planning on having state products in attendance.

– Metromorial is in the works for Memorial weekend. Southern Express wants to play our event again. We need recommendations for vendors and volunteers to work the event. More details are coming

– We had our first round of chapter nominations and they are as follows

President - Jameson Lemke

Vice President - Brian "Benny" Ladoux

Treasurer - Joe "JJ" Jones

Secretary - Shannon Bros

Chapter Rep - Shannon Bros

Seargant at Arms - Eric Bout-It, Sylvester Nagle, Aron Lemke, Rob Benjamin.

Upcoming Events

– Next Meeting Coon Rapids VFW Tuesday, February 9th, 2026 at 7pm

--Breakfast at Route 47 Sunday February 15th, 8am- Noon

- Metro Meet and Eat at Welch's Big 10 Monday February 2nd, from 4-8pm
- St. Patty's Warmup Route 47 Saturday March 14th, 2026, from 6-10pm
- Donnie Smith Bike Show March 28th and 29th, 2026

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:18pm. Motion made by Rob, seconded by Eric. All in favor, motion passed