

**A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments
American Bikers Aiming Toward Education**



**ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC.
PALM BEACH CHAPTER**

THE Chrome Chronicles

ISSUE 137 2017-01

PALMBEACH.ABATEFLORIDA.COM

JAN. 2017



**ABATE
of Florida Inc.**

**NEXT
CHAPTER
MEETING
11:30 AM**

**3rd
Sunday
JAN. 15**

**CHECK TWICE
FOR MOTORCYCLES**

**LET THOSE WHO
RIDE
DECIDE!**



DEDICATED TO FREEDOM OF CHOICE, FREEDOM OF THE ROAD

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Our NEW Email is palmbeach.abateflorida@gmail.com .
Put in the subject: ABATE and the officer to whom should see it and what about to so that message is directed right

NEW Mailing Address
ABATE - Palm Beach Chapter
P.O. Box 1256
Loxahatchee, FL 33470

Our website is palmbeach.abateflorida.com
www.facebook.com/AbatePalmBeachChapter

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The submission deadline for all material for publication is after the third weekend of month or earlier

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

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ABATE of Florida Inc
Palm Beach Chapter
P.O. Box 1256
Loxahatchee, FL 33470

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EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

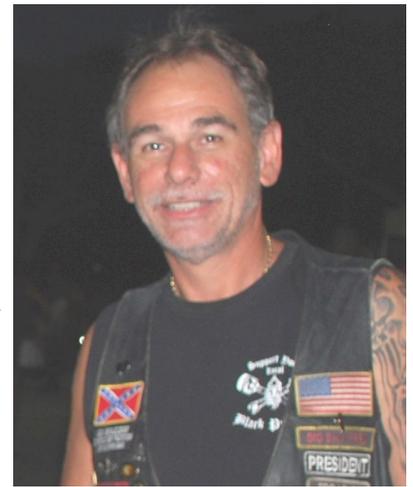
You are encouraged to submit letters about ABATE related to events, articles, photographs, commentaries, etc. Please do not submit slanderous nor accusing letters, profanity nor nudity. Abate of Florida, Inc., will not accept any advertising that discriminates against any type of motorcyclist

Newsletters can be picked up at:

- Chapter Meetings
- Our Table at Events
- Palm Beach Harley
- Various MC clubhouses

President's Message

Big Bad Fred Joseph



I want to thank everyone that came out to our annual event. It was a great time. They may have canceled the toy run, but it really did not affect the outcome of our party too bad. I also want to thank the members that helped out at the event. It went off with no problems thanks to them.

Sure would like to get to know more of our members? If you do run into me and I do not know who you are? It's probably because I don't know you.

That's all for this month.

Remember, most motorcycle problems are caused by the nut that connects the handlebars to the seat. Ride Safe.

Big Bad Fred

Photo below of Toy Drive sponsored by the UBCPBC, AOA, Black Pistons and Mob of Brothers MCs

STATES

Clams
Door Prizes
Independents Welcome
M.C. FLORIDA
50/50 Great Food Vendors
25th ANNUAL
Blessing of the Bikes
Sunday January 8th, 2017
Starts noon until ? ?

This is a nondenominational event all faiths welcome

Bikes will be blessed by

Father Gary & Mother Karen

Live Entertainment:

Hired Gunz Band
Classic Rock-N-Roll

Cost:
\$3 Single
\$5 Couple



Clubhouse (954) 786-2259
761 S W 13th Ct, Pompano Beach
All Vendors Welcome - Call Pepsi(561) 929-0133



UBCPBC toy drive at Heros bike night

ABATE of Florida, Inc.

Mission Statement

WHO WE ARE

We are a non-profit organization of motorcycle enthusiasts from all walks of life. We lobby and educate the government and the general public to promote motorcycling in a safe and positive image. We endeavor to enlist the cooperation and participation of all organizations and individuals that share a similar interest in preserving our American tradition of FREEDOM. We promote motorcycle safety, training, & political awareness. We ARE NOT A CLUB OR A GANG. We fund our work through events, toy runs, poker runs, campouts, and other motorcycle activities. We are your neighbors & friends who work, pay taxes, and get involved with our community. We serve and support our country and believe in freedom. We use all legal means to protect our rights without infringing on the rights of others. We are Pro-choice NOT anti-helmet

OUR GOALS

To become a powerful and viable political force in legislative matters concerning the motorcyclist.
To promote the safe riding habits without infringing on individual freedoms.
To motivate the bikers to write letters to legislators before, during, and after the legislative session.
To furnish a newsletter to keep all bikers informed in regards to upcoming legislation.

MEMBERSHIP

When you become a member of ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. you are helping make a difference in the ongoing mission to protect your right to ride and enjoy the motorcycle of your choice, your choice of riding apparel, and when and where you can ride a motorcycle. These are issues that are real and present in today's "protect yourself" political environment. This holds true for all levels of government. There will always be those who see our love for motorcycling as a negative and will try any means to control and if possible prohibit motorcycle use.

On the local level our members get out the vote and support candidates who are sympathetic to our issues. We also will endeavor to lobby local governments whenever there are issues that need to be addressed, affecting local motorcycle use, ownership, and any discrimination that may result from said use of ownership.

At the state level we have a paid registered lobbyist who regularly visits our state capital in Tallahassee to lobby our legislators on the issues concerning the motorcycling public in Florida. He also finds reliable House and Senate sponsors for the bills we support. On the national level we are aligned with Motorcycle Riders Foundations (MRF), and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), along with several other international motorcycle rights organizations (MRO's).

As one can see we have our ear to the ground and our resolve tempered like steel. As Americans we have had it demonstrated to us time and again the vigilance is armor of free men and women. We shall not let the armor rust or weaken. With your support we can re-enforce and strengthen the armor for now and generations to come. What else do you get with your membership? All members receive with their paid membership, the *Masterlink* Newsletter, Membership Card, Event Discounts and Updates, Voting Privileges, Free *Masterlink* Classified Advertisements, a Chapter Newsletter, and a free \$4,000 Accidental Death or Dismemberment Insurance Policy from the American Income Life Insurance Company.

Memberships are open to anyone 18 years of age or older, no matter what type of motorcycle you ride, if any at all! We welcome all riders—in clubs, associations, independents, and sport riders to join us.



This is a 3 bedroom, 2 bath and 5 car garage, 3,353 Total Sq. Ft., wood burning fire place, home on 1.15 acres in Loxahatchee, pretty pond, all fenced bring your horses. House shows very well is ready to move in, detached garage could be workshop.

Call me to schedule a showing!

Best regards

Carlos Morales

Realtor

Realty Elite

The Palm Beaches

rocagold11@aol.com

C 561/644-6768

F 561/793-0746

www.rocagold.com

For Free Home Value Estimate go to:

WWW.RocaValue.Com



Happy New Year

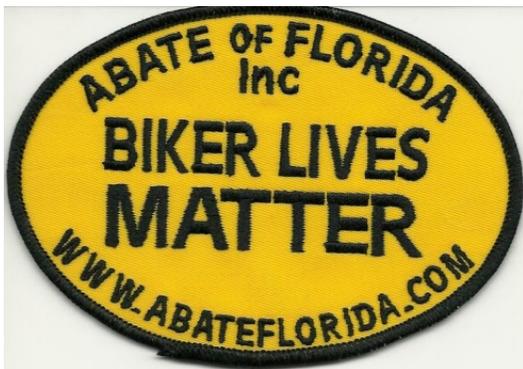
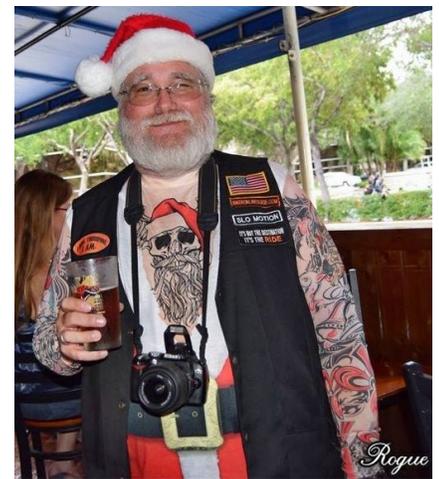
2017 will be a year of many changes. So far Palm Beach Harley has not renewed their ad. We do have a temp one by a Realtor which I hope will continue. So we need to find more advertisers to provide money to continue to publish, at least we are not in as much trouble as *Wheels on the Road*.

It will be a very interested legislative year as you will read in much of this newsletter. There is a storm ahead with the bill for mandatory helmets. So be prepared with the facts as you talk to your legislators about it.

I enjoyed our December event and wish more would have been there for the fun.

Dan "Slo Mo" Henderson

Editor



First was the patch, now there is a T-shirt. It comes in orange but the lettering will be a bit more bold from the Delegates' suggestion at the last state meeting



UPCOMING Event Schedule

Monday Jan. 2 Mob of Brothers Open House

Friday Jan, 5 Ink Link Bike Night

Friday Jan. 5 Soldiers for Jesus MC Open House

Saturday Jan. 7 Palm Beach Harley Fuel for the Ride Free Pancakes 10 am til gone

Saturday Jan. 7 Lone Legion Brotherhood MC Steak Dinner

Sunday Jan. 8 States MC Pompano Blessing of the Bikes

Tuesday Jan 10 Lone Legion Brotherhood MC Open House

Thursday Jan 12 Black Pistons MC Open House

Thursday Jan.12 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night 5-9 45th St. West Palm Beach

Friday the 13th Palm Beach Harley Tattoo Marathon

Sunday Jan 15 Palm Beach Chapter Meeting ABATE of FL. Inc. 11:30 am

V.F.W. Post 4143 located at 2404 Broadway, Riviera Beach 561-844-5718. From I 95 exit Blue Heron Blvd. go east to Broadway (Federal Hwy., US- 1) turn right, go south 1 block the V.F.W. is on the east side. Look for the flag. Breakfast will be served 9:00 AM 'til Noon.

Sunday Jan15 White Elephant The Bells Motor Madness old Wellington Mall

Thursday Jan 19 Heros Bike Night

Sunday Jan 22 Southeast ABATE Semi-Annual

Tuesday Jan 24 Militia Riders Open House

Thurs Jan 26 Turboz Custom Cycles Bike Night 7-10 PM Ralph's Stand Up Bar Jupiter

Thurs Jan 26 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night

REMINDER: EVERY

Wednesday Night is Bru's Room Delray Bike Night

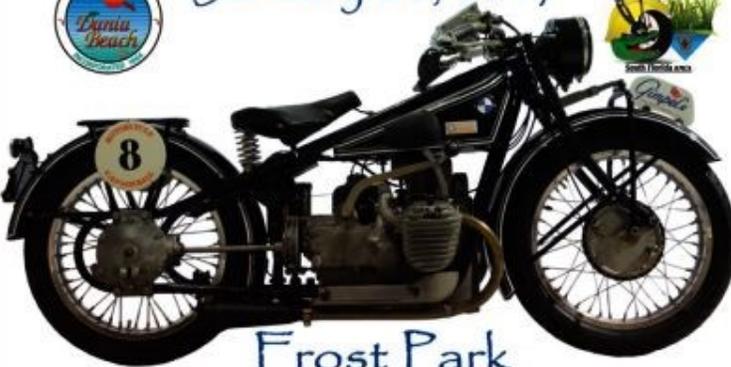
Wednesday Night is Gorilla Motors Bike Night at Island Jack's

1st & 4th Friday Night is AOA OPEN HOUSE

Saturday Night is FLY-IN WHEELS MC OPEN HOUSE

PLEASE ATTEND THE OPEN HOUSES FOR A GOOD TIME AND SHOW OF SUPPORT WHEN POSSIBLE

A Day In A South Florida Park
 11th Annual Dania Beach
 Vintage Motorcycle Show
 January 28, 2017



Frost Park
 300 NE 2nd Street • Dania Beach, Florida

Classes include: American, European, Japanese, English, Competition & Scooter 33 years and older
Featured Class: BMW
 Sign up 7am - 10am • Show 10am - 5pm

View over 350 Vintage Motorcycles along with:
 Field Games, Vendors, Antique Bicycle Display, Bike Parts Swap Meet,
 Live Music by "The Whipping Post", Roller Derby Girls, Kiddie Play Area, Food
 Dealer Displays and More! Awards at 4pm



Registration, Information & Updates: www.DaniaBeachVintageBikeShow.com

LONE LEGION BROTHERHOOD MC
 SERVING OUR FAMOUS STEAK DINNER



IT'S TIME FOR A BIG JUICY SIRLOIN STEAK.
 SERVED WITH 2 SIDES PLUS ROLLS AND BUTTER.
 FOR THE LOW PRICE OF \$10.
 SATURDAY JANUARY 7th, 2017
 2950 COMMERCE PARK DR. UNIT 5
 BOYNTON BEACH, FL
 DOORS OPEN AT 2PM. FOOD SERVED AT 3PM TILL IT'S
 GONE, DON'T BE LATE.
 DRINK SPECIALS, 50/50 RAFFLE
 THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT, LOOKING FORWARD TO
 SEEING OUR INDEPENDENT RIDERS AND SUPPORTERS.



IRON & Fe
 VINTAGE MOTORCYCLE FESTIVAL

NEW LOCATION!
 AT COMPETITION RESORTS!

4th Annual Iron & Clematis
 Vintage Motorcycle Festival
 Feb. 25, 11 am-8pm,
 Downtown Abacoa Jupiter, FL



RAFFLE MOTORCYCLE!

Winter Wonderland Bike Night

📅 Thursday, January 12, 2017 ⌚ 5PM-9PM 📍 Palm Beach Harley-Davidson

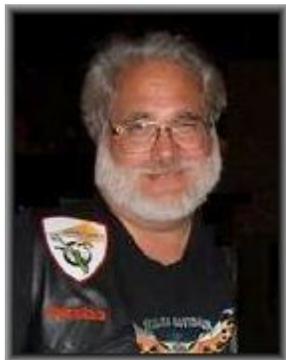


WINTER WONDERLAND BIKE NIGHT
 January 12th, 5PM-9PM **ENTER TO WIN A 2017 IRON 883**

CHEAP BEERS & \$5 MEALS
LIVE MUSIC BY THE SHAREHOLDERS
ENTER TO WIN GAMES FOR PRIZES!



Please drink responsibly. Gift cards & Prizes not valid on the purchase of a motorcycle.
 DRAWING ON 5/18/17. (1) ENTRY PER BIKE NIGHT ATTENDED. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER TO WIN CONTESTS.
 PURCHASE DOES NOT INCREASE CHANCES OF WINNING.



GOOGLE MOTORCYCLE ALERTS, NEWS, and RANDOM EDITOR THOUGHTS

Some brief info and the links to follow for more. Dan Henderson

Should Floridians be required to wear helmets on motorcycles?

Well it is starting to make the news, 10 News Tampa Bay Sarasota ran a report which can be viewed at <http://www.wtsp.com/news/local/legislature-to-consider-motorcycle-helmet-law/376840139> While it starts sounding like a two sided report, I felt it leaned into more for helmet law. The aired report had a pole (closed link) Should motorcyclists be required to wear helmets when riding? at 75% for and 25% against the proposed law, the story had 53% yes and 47% no. The only argument for was the freedom feeling issue. One reporter's statement that if drivers have to wear seat belts we should have to wear helmets. With that logic I reply—I had to take and pay to prove I can ride but drivers don't and really do need to also. At least the Harley salesman said it was an matter of freedom of choice. Close with the medical statement of protection but even his statement on how one dies is open to question. Closing statement saying they need to consider the CDC and NTSA studies that helmet laws save states millions of dollars (?)

Polaris Industries issues yet another recall, this time on Indian Motorcycles. The vehicles' fuel rails may reposition, causing a fire hazard, officials said. Polaris Industries' recall saga continued this month with the recall of 23,746 Indian Motorcycles because of possible fuel-leak problems that could lead to a fire.

<http://www.startribune.com/polaris-industries-issues-yet-another-recall-this-time-on-indian-motorcycles/408648945/>

Latest motorcycle technology keeps riders connected

Michael Kofsky, USATODAY 5:14 a.m. EST November 24, 2016

USA TODAY takes a journey to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, where blogger Leticia Cline shows us how a motorcycle trip can be enhanced through technology. Video by Michael Kofsky, USA TODAY

STURGIS, S.D. -- Whether it's apps to track rain storms or black boxes to remotely diagnose problems, the connected technology revolution has come to motorcycles.

The classic, traditional world of two-wheeled open-road biking now has plenty of digital routes available to any rider willing to navigate new technologies. And bike manufacturers are finding that good technology can also be good for business as they look to attract a new generation of Millennial riders.

USA TODAY came to Sturgis, S.D., over the summer where thousands of motorcyclists gather annually to talk and check out the latest gear and bikes.

Among the cool features we found was connected helmets, which allows riders to take pictures, listen to music and make phone calls as they rumble along. There are also apps like Dark Sky, which allow riders to pinpoint when rain will start falling and predict how long it will last. Another app, Rever, is a motorcycle social-media app that records a rider's route, which they can then share with others in an online community.

Last, there's now a black box that can be installed on Harley-Davidson motorcycles that can allow mechanics to diagnose trouble remotely. It's the Vance & Hines FP3.

Most of the new tech coming to bikes is easy enough that even the most hard-headed Baby Boom riders will be able to take advantage of it. The idea is to make riding more pleasurable, and that will attract more riders of all ages

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/cars/2016/11/24/latest-motorcycle-technology-keeps-riders-connected/94371044/>

MOTORCYCLE BLACK BOX LETS RIDERS MONITOR VITAL INFO

USA TODAY 11:05 a.m. EST November 26, 2016

At the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, USA TODAY checks out the FP3, a way for riders to tune up and even fix their motorcycles without ever heading to a shop. Video by Michael Kofsky, USA TODAY

Vance & Hines, a motorcycle accessories maker, came to the big annual Sturgis motorcycle rally, which draws riders from a cross the nation every summer, to show off its Fuelpak FP3 -- a black box that plugs into the engine computer of a newer Harley-Davidson bike and broadcasts the engine performance data over Bluetooth to a smartphone app.

Using the app, riders can view all sorts of data in real-time -- from engine revolutions and battery voltage to error codes and fuel efficiency. For those looking for more precise control, the app even allows riders to make changes to their bikes' settings.

This can be especially useful to riders adding aftermarket parts who need to fine-tune their bike's performance, a Vance & Hines executive says.

"It used to be a long and involved process and would involve a lot of time at the motorcycle shop and a great deal of expensive. Now, everything is managed...on your iPhone" says Larry Coleman, western regional sales manager for Vance and Hines.

Vance and Hines also touts its' ability to help users remotely. Riders in need help with their bikes, can speak to one of the company's technicians over the phone who can then tap into their bikes via the internet and make fixes—all without ever visiting a mechanic.

Coleman says that while such apps are typically the purview of Millennials, many older riders are willing to do anything to enhance their bike. "Our older generation rider...when it comes to their motorcycle, if it's going to make it run better...they'll learn it." he says.

The product has appeared to strike a chord with consumers, with Coleman calling it “the most successful new product we’ve introduced in years.”

The Fuelpak FP3 is easy to find online at Amazon for less than \$300.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/cars/2016/11/26/motorcycle-black-box-lets-riders-monitor-vital-info/94465442/>

Harley-Davidson motorcycle honoring USS Milwaukee to be auctioned for military charity



Nov 21, 2016, 11:15am CST INDUSTRIES & TAGS

The motorcycle built by [Harley-Davidson Inc.](#) to honor the Wisconsin-built littoral combat ship USS Milwaukee is now going up for auction to raise money to support the families of people in the military.

Milwaukee-based Harley-Davidson (NYSE: HOG) customized a Softail Slim S model from its 2016 model year lineup in naval white and blue colors indicative of WWII-era Harley-Davidson motorcycles. The motorcycle was built a year ago for [Lockheed Martin Corp.](#) (NYSE: LMT), the Bethesda, Md., defense contractor leading one of the teams building the littoral combat ships for the U.S. Navy. Lockheed’s team builds its ships at the [Marinette Marine](#) shipyard in Marinette.

After being displayed during the November 2015 commissioning ceremony for the USS Milwaukee on the city’s lakefront, the motorcycle spent a year touring the nation with Lockheed Martin visiting different trade shows, family events and helping bring awareness to the issues the nation’s military families face, the National

Military Families Association said Monday.

“We commissioned this motorcycle in honor of the USS Milwaukee and the men and women of the U.S. Navy, so it is appropriate that this custom Harley-Davidson will contribute to various efforts that support military families,” said [Stephanie Hill](#), Lockheed Martin vice president of Cyber, Ships and Advanced Technologies. “Because about a quarter of Lockheed Martin’s employees are themselves veterans, NMFA’s mission strongly resonates with me and our company, and we are naturally proud to support such a worthy organization.”

Lockheed Martin donated the motorcycle to the Alexandria, Va., nonprofit organization, which will auction it off to raise money for its military family programs, including camps for military kids and families, and military spouse scholarships and professional support.

“The lucky high-bidder of this bike will not only receive a one-of-a-kind Harley, but will also be helping to make a difference for military families across the country,” said [Joyce Wessel Raezer](#), executive director of the organization. “Lockheed Martin and Harley-Davidson are tremendous supporters of the military and their families, and we are so honored to be working with them on this exciting project.”

The live auction is scheduled for Dec. 10 at a special event, [Ball Park After Dark: Mission Military Families](#), being held at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C. Bidders unable to attend the event in person may [bid online now](#).

David Schuyler is Digital Producer overseeing website content and also serves as a reporter covering the arts and nonprofit organizations for the Milwaukee Business Journal.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2016/11/21/harley-davidson-motorcycle-honoring-uss-milwaukee.html>

LOCAL ACCIDENTS

Stuart police seek witnesses to Thursday Dec. 30 10:45pm motorcycle crash that killed 22 year old PSL man in the 2400 block of Southeast Federal Highway. <http://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/martin-county/2016/12/30/stuart-police-look-witnesses-for-thursday-fatal-motorcycle-crash/96009458/>

ST. LUCIE COUNTY — The motorcyclist whose body was discovered by a passerby Wednesday morning near Fort Pierce has been identified, Ronny Lee Woods, 52, of Fort Pierce, was riding a 2016 Harley Davidson Tri Glide northbound in the 4000 block of Sunrise Boulevard about 6:45 p.m. Tuesday when he left the roadway for unknown reasons, said Sgt. J.R. “Ray” Wigfall. Woods veered onto the east shoulder of the road and was ejected from the motorcycle. He was a disabled veteran

<http://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/st-lucie-county/2016/12/29/fatal-motorcycle-crash-fort-pierce-st-lucie-county/95953770/>

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, Fla. - Two people on a motorcycle were thrown from the vehicle. It happened Sunday night on the Palmetto Expressway at 47th Avenue. A car struck the motorcycle, ejecting the driver and the passenger, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue said. The victims were listed in critical condition. <http://www.local10.com/news/2-ejected-from-vehicle-in-miami-dade-crash-fire-officials-say>

A HIDDEN VIDEO GEM FROM THE INTERNET WORLD

This 1972 motorcycle training video is vintage car-spotting at its finest DECEMBER 1, 2016

Silodrome stumbled upon this 1972 video called "Motorcycle Driving Tactics," which is chock-full of vintage iron in its prime, along with plenty of sound advice for new and seasoned riders alike -- riding defensively, being aware of what’s on the road ahead and wearing proper protection. It shows how the basics of motorcycle riding have changed little over the decades.

Interestingly, the video has footage from car-motorcycle crash testing, which drives home the dangers associated with riding. It’s a bit painful to watch.

Don’t let the 15-minute runtime scare you off: Take the time to watch it and enjoy the vintage motorcycles (and cars) in their prime. You’ll even hear some Shakespeare while maybe learning something new.

See video: <http://autoweek.com/article/wait-theres-more/1972-motorcycle-training-video-still-relevant-today#ixzz4RoMB9pZE>

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the word so can continue to
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general public and riders

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member at reduced price.

Send in scan of card or better,
bring to Chapter meeting

ABATE Palm Beach
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ABATE of Florida, Inc.

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Newsletter Ad Rates 6.5% sales Tax included

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HALF PAGE	\$ 38.16	\$ 78.86	\$ 146.28	\$ 263.33
FULL PAGE	\$ 50.88	\$ 125.93	\$ 232.78	\$ 418.99

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Phone : _____ Email: _____

Business Web Site _____

Material for ads should be in digital format such a JPG or PDF emailed to
palmbeach.abateflorida@gmail.com
and send in by the 3rd weekend of the month to insure inclusion for next
issue

Fill out form, print, sign attach your check or money order and mail to:

ABATE Palm Beach Chapter
P.O. Box 1256
Loxahatchee, FL 33470

OUR NEWSLETTERS are best viewed at palmbeach.abateflorida.com as most timely (by the first of month), in full color, and with active Internet links to stories, etc., of interest. We do need our advertisers and more to be able print and distribute more copies to the county for motorcyclists to be aware of the issues facing us. So please join in and let us know of good places to put them in. Issues can be mailed to members if no Internet access. Non-members can buy a subscription for \$20 a year but the other two methods are faster as it takes more time to get mailings done.

Thank you for all the support of ABATE of Florida, Inc. and the Palm Beach Chapter.

ELECTRIC BIKE NEWS

“PICKERINGTON, Ohio -- The American Motorcyclist Association and Zero Motorcycles Inc. are pleased to announce that all new 2017 Zero models will include one year of membership in the AMA, including AMA Roadside Assistance.?”

<http://www.roadracingworld.com/news/zero-motorcycles-to-provide-ama-memberships-with-all-new-2017-motorcycle-purchases/>

“Mike Corbin sets the electric land speed record of 161.387 mph round trip, with trap speeds over 201 mph, in 1974 – that record lasted until Richard Hatfield's Lightning LS218 finally beat it in 2012.”

<http://newatlas.com/mike-corbin-quicksilver-land-speed-electric-motorcycle/46696/>



AERO E-RACER MOTORCYCLE Looking much more like a traditional motorcycle than many all-electric options, the **Aero E-Racer Motorcycle** is a sleek compromise between a gas-powered street racer and a commuter-centric electric bike. It's powered by an electric motor from Tacita, maker of the T-Race electric rally bike, producing around 75hp, with a range of 40 miles. It sits on a tubular chrome moly steel frame, has a front-mounted GoPro for capturing your rides, and is finished with carbon/kevlar body work, an iPhone-based dashboard, and a roomy fine leather seat.

<http://uncrate.com/stuff/aero-e-racer-motorcycle/>

It's the law: Electric cars must make noise after September 2019. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's long awaited "Quiet Car" rule will require all electric vehicles to make noise, so pedestrians can better hear and avoid them.

<https://www.cnet.com/roadshow/news/its-the-law-electric-cars-must-make-noise-after-september-2019/>



<ftag=CAD5920658&bhid=19064138960441387712522961825113>

This distinctive electric motorbike is a ground-up reinvention of the motorcycle

“The Johammer J1 electric motorbike is a head-turning e-mobility solution that can double as a home battery storage device.

An electric motorcycle from Austrian electric mobility firm Johammer is like nothing else on the road, and for good reason, as it breaks almost completely with traditional motorcycle design in favor of a decidedly unconventional approach to electric transport. Sure, it's still got two wheels and a saddle and a pair of handlebars, but that's about where the similarities end, which is probably why some are comparing the Johammer J1 to a Tesla, as they both are products of a radical reimagining of what personal transportation looks like. More information about this futuristic electric motorcycle can be found at the company website <http://www.johammer.com/en/electric-motorcycle/> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=johammer%20motorcycles>

Read full story at <http://www.treehugger.com/bikes/johammer-j1-electric-motorcycle.html>



DELEGATE REPORT

Ken "Snooze" Gerecke & Bill "Hammish" Black

STATE MEETINGS

Host Chapter - Location

February 11, 2017 State—Ocala
 April 8, 2017 State—Tallahassee
 June 10, 2017 Vintage
 August 12, 2017 Lake
 October 14, 2017 Peace River
 December 9, 2017 Treasure Coast

ABATE of Florida, Inc. State Meeting



Saturday, February 11, 2017

Board Meeting at 12:00 Noon

Delegate's Meeting at 2:00 PM

Held at the Marion County Association of Realtors
3105 NE 14th Street Ocala, FL 34470

Lodging

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3811 NW Blitchin Rd, Ocala
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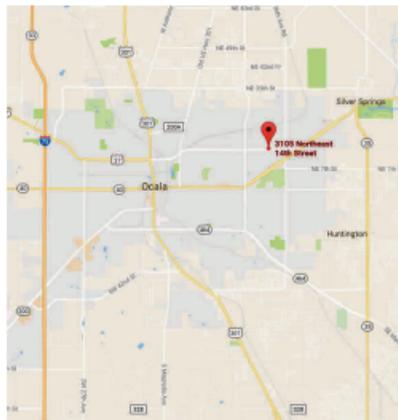
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 SAFETYMEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Having attended last month's state meeting in Naples one thing is for sure the 2017 legislative session is coming up fast. We are going to need everyone's help between now and then. I urge everyone who believes in freedom of choice and freedom of the road to please pick up the phone and call their legislative representatives as soon as possible and let them know where we stand on the issues. This new year will be a tough fight with such issues as a mandatory helmet law - HB 6009 Motorcycle Safety By Rep. Hahnfeld. And our road users bill that we have been working on for a long time now, one of our own local Senators is fighting hard against us don't let him get away with it!

Call your House Representative and Senator and let them know how we feel about these very important issues.

At next month's chapter meeting we will have the State Vice President in attendance I am sure he will have some great information for us. Please try to attend.

The next state meeting will be in Ocala due to last minute change of plan. Abate of Florida will be our host at the Marion County Association of Realtors 3105 N.E.14th St. Ocala FL.34470 if you are interested in attending please let us know at our next chapter meeting.

Ride Safe Ride Smart !!

SNOOZE

As Snooze stated it has been stressed by ABATE of FL. Inc. how important it is to contact YOUR legislators this year with some of the bills coming our way. You will find many suggests from the Sate VP in my legislative Report including crash stats On page 28 you will see a story Dennis got published in local newspaper on his own personal opinions. I found a great Helmet Law Facts Warren Woodard, Chair State Legislative Committee, Street Bikers United Hawaii 2007. I've made copies of these three to give to legislators I visit. I'll try to get them on our site for you to give or just get with me for copies. So get out and greet your representatives!

Dan "SloMo" Henderson

Kawasaki's Electric Motorcycle Patent Images Leaked

By Seshan Vijayraghvan Dec 08, 2016

The images reveal that the bike will have a streetfighter-like look
 This will be Kawasaki's first electric road motorcycle
 The new electric motor is claimed to be strong enough to power a pickup

According to a set of recently leaked patent images, Kawasaki appears to have started working on its first all-electric road motorcycle. The patent images reveal that the bike will have a street fighter like stance and it is likely to get the manufacturers latest style cues.

This is not the first time that Kawasaki is being associated with electric bikes. Back in 2014, the Japanese two wheeler marque had introduced a very radical electric concept bike - the Kawasaki J-Concept, but there were hardly any updates after that. Apparently one of the biggest issues that Kawasaki was facing before was the huge heat generated by the silent motors.

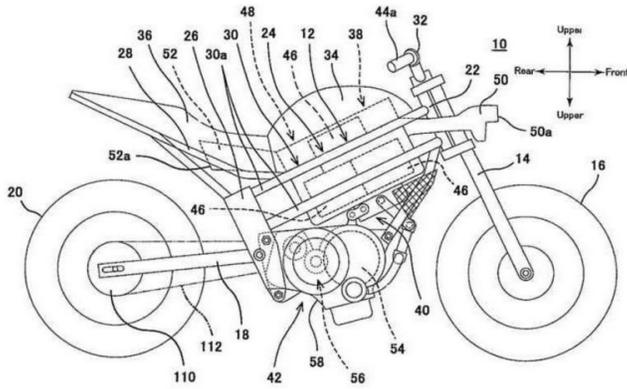


Fig. 1

Now, the company seems to have sorted out its cooling problems for an all-electric motorcycle and is claimed to an engine strong enough to power a small pick-up truck.

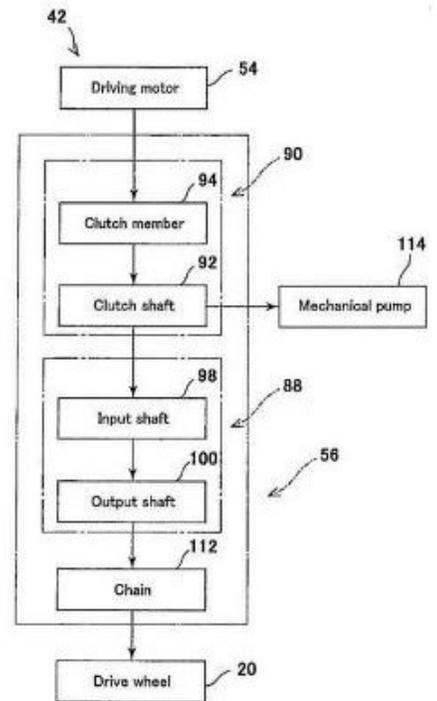
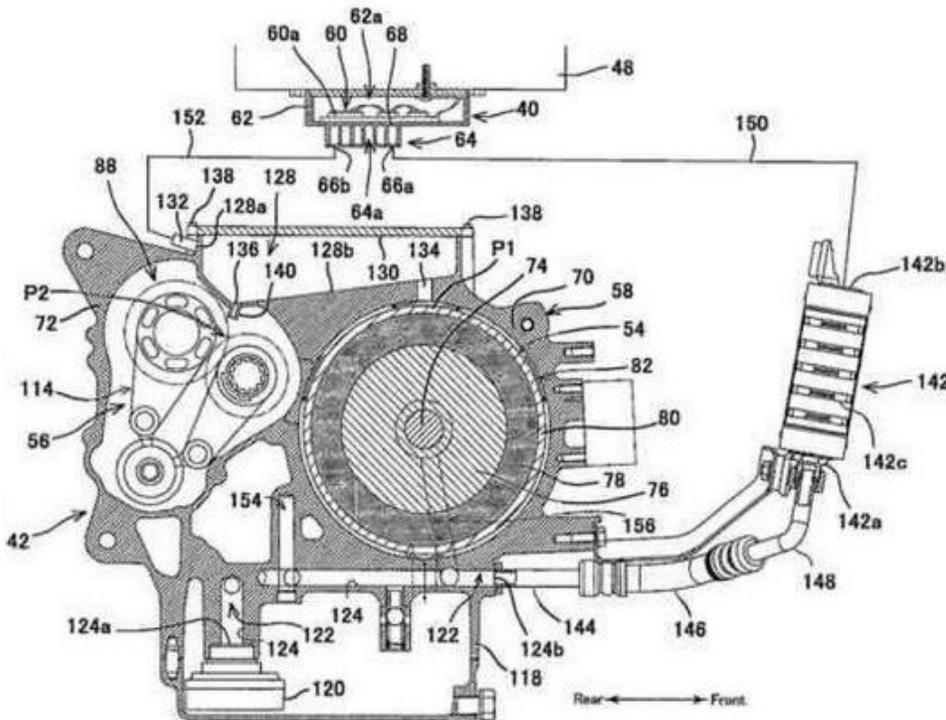
The patent images reveal that the latest design of the new powertrain shows a large, two-part cooling plan which is allied to a new electric motor. The system is an oil-cooling set-up to keep the huge temperatures from the electric motor within a workable range. Cooling also comes from a ram-air feed to direct air quickly over the top of the batteries themselves, to help keep rising temperatures.

Kawasaki Electric Bike Powertrain Design

The bike also comes with pseudo fuel tank and the batteries that power the system are mounted towards the top of the bike's layout to balance the weight of the heavy electric motor sited at the optimum point low-down.

While the power figures are not known yet, interestingly, this new powertrain setup is not just limited to motorcycles and can be applied to small pick-ups or All-Terrain Vehicles. The patent images also outline this unit in particular as suitable for use in a hybrid set-up sitting alongside a small petrol-powered engine for even more power.

<http://auto.ndtv.com/news/kawasakis-electric-motorcycle-patent-images-leaked-1635600>



Mon Tilted Kilt Bike Night Boca
Mon CJs Bike Night Delray
1st Mon Mob of Brothers MC
 Open House
Mon Dinner 6:30 States MC
 Pompano Clubhouse

2nd Tues Lone Legion MC
 Brotherhood Open House
4th Tues Militia Riders Open
 House @ Lone Legion clubhouse

3rd Wed States MC Lake Worth
 Open House 8pm
Wed Island Jack's Bike Night with
 Gorilla Motors
Wed Chit Chat's bike night 7pm
 Free BBQ, music
Wed Bru's Room Delray Bike Nite

Every other Thurs Palm Beach
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 Davidson Bike Night
3rd Thurs O'Shea's Vintage
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 West Palm
2nd Thurs Black Pistons MC WPB
 Open House
3rd Thurs Heroes Bike Night
Last Thurs Turboz/Ralph's Bike
 Night Jupiter

1st & 4th Fri AOA MC WPB Open
 Houses
1st Fri Soldiers for Jesus Open
 House
1st Fri Ink Link Bike Night
1st Fri Enforcers MC Party

Sat Palm Beach Harley HOG
 FREE hot dogs soda's 10-2
3rd Sat Treasure Coast Harley
 Biker Appreciation
Sat Fly-In Wheels MC WPB open
 house

Sun Flossie's Famous Tiki Hut
 Biker Sunday
Sunday Wind Rider Church
 Mickey's Tiki Bar 10:30am
3rd Sunday ABATE FL Palm
 Beach Chapter Meeting 11:30
 VFW Riviera Beach

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 SFPC CHAIRMAN
 SOUTH FLORIDA PRESIDENTS COUNCIL
 of Motorcycle Clubs and Organizations



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JANUARY 2017

- 8: STATES MC - BLESSING OF THE BIKES
- 15: Wings of Gold LAUD BIKER APPRECIATION
- 22: S.E. ABATE - SEMI ANNUAL
- 29: DER KRIEGER MC - ANNUAL

FEBRUARY

- 4: USMV MC HOMESTEAD - ANNUAL
- 12: AOA FT. LAUD. - ANNUAL
- 18: SCURVY FEW MC - PARTY
- 25: WHEELS OF MAN MC - 44th ANNUAL

MARCH

- 5: HERMANDAD MC - ANNUAL
- 10 - 19: 76th DAYTONA BIKE WEEK
- 19: KELTICS MC - ANNUAL
- 25: US MILITARY VETS MC CH.1 - PARTY

APRIL

- 2: STATES MC - ANNUAL
- 8: MYSTIC SEVEN MC - PARTY
- 12: OUTCAST MC - ANNUAL
- 16: CMA EASTER SERVICE
- 23: ALTERNATIVE MC - ANNUAL
- 28-30: LEESBURG BIKEFEST

MAY

- 7: SOUTHERN MC - ANNUAL
- 13: SCURVY FEW MC - ANNUAL
- 20: WINGS OF GOLD MC MIAMI - ANNUAL
- 27: S.E. ABATE - MEMORIAL DAY EVENT
- 28: LOS COQUIS MC - ANNUAL

JUNE

- 4: NEW ATTITUDES MC - PARTY
- 10: AOA S FLORIDA MEMORIAL GBNF 1%ers
- 11: WINGS OF GOLD MC FT. LAUD. - ANNUAL
- 24: LEATHERNECKS MC - PARTY

JULY

- 1: USMV MC S. BROWARD - ANNUAL
- 16: Soldiers of Jesus MC Broward - ANNUAL
- 29: WHEELS OF MAN MC - CHILI COOK-OFF

AUGUST

- 6: WINGS OF GOLD MC MIAMI - PARTY
- 7-13: 77th STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY
- 11-13: S FLORIDA TATTOO CONVENTION
- 13: AOA LAUD. 50th Anniversary Moldy's B-DAY
- 19: LOS COQUIS MC - Smokey & Diesel B-DAY
- 26: OUTCAST MC PARTY

SEPTEMBER

- 3: SOUTHERN MC - TEDDY BEAR RUN
- 10: STATES MC - KEY WEST TUNE UP PARTY
- 15-17: PETERSONS KEY WEST POKER RUN
- 24: KELTICS MC - PARTY

OCTOBER

- 1: MYSTIC SEVEN - ANNUAL
- 7: NEW ATTITUDES MC - ANNUAL
- 8: S.E. ABATE - ANNUAL
- 19-22: DAYTONA BIKETOBERFEST
- 21: WHEELS OF MAN MC - Halloween Party
- 28: ALTERNATIVE MC - PARTY
- 29: CMA - MEMORIAL

NOVEMBER

- 4: HEATHENS MC - ANNUAL
- 11: USMVMC CH 1 - ANNUAL F
- SFPC 2017 CALENDAR CONTINUED
- 18: Leathernecks MC Annual

DECEMBER

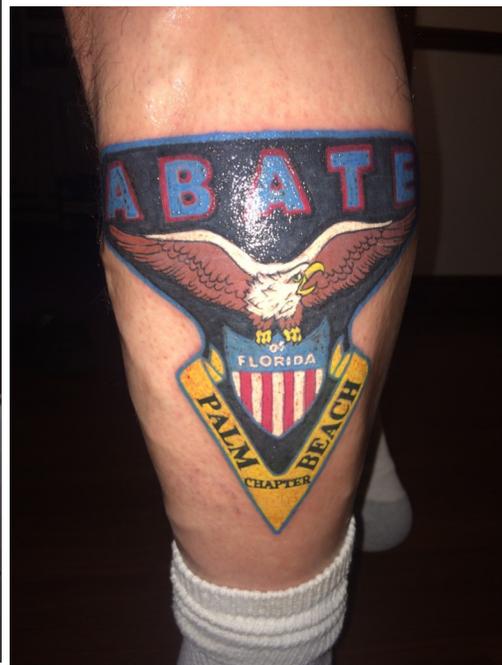
- 10: SFPC TOYS IN THE SUN RUN
- 16: TOY RUN BIKE DRAWING
- 16: Hermandad MC - MEMORIAL TOY RUN
- 17: WINGS OF GOLD MC MIAMI - TOY RUN

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January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day	2 Tilted Kilt Boca & CJs Delray Bike Nights Dinner States MC Pompano CANCELLED	3 Mob of Brothers MC Open House	4 Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Bike Nights	5 Black Pistons Open House	6 Ink Link Bike Night Soldiers for Jesus MC Open House	7 Fly-In Wheels MC Open House
8 States MC Blessing of the Bikes Pompano	9 Tilted Kilt Boca & CJs Delray Bike Nights Dinner States MC Pompano	10 Lone Legion MC Open House	11 Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Bike Nights	12 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night Treasure Coast Harley Bike Night	13 AOA WPB Open House	14 Fly-In Wheels MC Open House
15 P Bch ABATE Chapter Meeting	16 Tilted Kilt Boca & CJs Delray Bike Nights Dinner States MC Pompano	17	18 States LW MC Open House Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Bike Nights	19 Bike Night at Heroes	20	21 Fly-In Wheels MC Open House
22	23 Tilted Kilt Boca & CJs Delray Bike Nights Dinner States MC Pompano	24 Militia Riders Open House at Lone Legion	25 Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Bike Nights	6 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night Turboz/Ralphs Bike Night	27 AOA WPB Open House	28 Fly-In Wheels MC Open House
29	30 Tilted Kilt Boca & CJs Delray Bike Nights Dinner States MC Pompano	31				

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Bike Nights	2 Groundhog Day Happy Birthday Slo Motion	3 Ink Link Bike Night Soldiers for Jesus MC Open House AOA WPB Open House	4 Fly-In Wheels MC Open House
5	6 Tilted Kilt Boca & CJs Delray Bike Nights Mob of Brothers MC Open House Dinner States MC Pompano	7	8 Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Bike Nights	9 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night Black Pistons Open House Treasure Coast Harley Bike Night	10	11 Fly-In Wheels MC Open House
12	13 Tilted Kilt Boca & CJs Delray Bike Nights Dinner States MC Pompano	14 Lone Legion MC Open House	15 States LW MC Open House Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Bike Nights	16 O'Shea's Vintage Bike Show Bike Night at Heroes	17	18 Fly-In Wheels MC Open House
19 P Bch ABATE Chapter Meeting	20 Tilted Kilt Boca & CJs Delray Bike Nights Dinner States MC Pompano	21	22 Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Bike Nights	23 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night Turboz/ Ralphs Bike Night	24 AOA WPB Open House	25 Fly-In Wheels MC Open House
26	27 Tilted Kilt Boca & CJs Delray Bike Nights Dinner States MC Pompano	28 Militia Riders Open House at Lone Legion				



New Grassroots Group "Motorcycle Action Network" Seeks to Rid U.S. Transportation Agencies of Corporate Influence

NEWS PROVIDED BY **Motorcycle Action Network** Dec 19, 2016, 08:00 ET

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 19, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Longtime public-safety advocate Fergus Nolan today announced the founding of the Motorcycle Action Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making roads safer for American motorcyclists and the drivers around them. The organization will raise awareness of federal and state transportation regulations that have been weakened by the U.S. motorcycle industry and its allies, costing thousands of lives every year.

Initially, the Motorcycle Action Network will focus on strengthening regulations set by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in connection with motorcycle antilock brake systems (ABS).

NHTSA was preparing to issue a nationwide mandate on motorcycle ABS in 2010, when it unexpectedly released a report concluding the technology provided no safety benefits. The report's findings were at odds with dozens of scientific studies dating back decades, many of which were commissioned by NHTSA itself. That body of data proved that motorcycle ABS works as intended and would save the lives of 1,500 motorcyclists a year if made mandatory in the United States, roughly the same number who would be protected by a nationwide helmet law.

Nolan has argued that lobbyists employed by Milwaukee-based Harley-Davidson and other motorcycle manufacturers pressured NHTSA to issue the 2010 report and cancel its ABS mandate the following year, allowing the industry to continue selling the technology as an expensive option. The company had access at the time to several lobbyists who had once worked at NHTSA's highest levels.

Nolan has sent NHTSA multiple Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests in connection with this issue, but the agency has refused to respond. His fight for an explanation has been covered by *The Huffington Post*.

"I call upon the American Motorcyclist Association, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, and all state-level motorcyclists' rights organizations to abandon their allegiance to the motorcycle industry and join me in demanding that NHTSA reconsider mandatory ABS," said Nolan. "I also call upon Chairman John Thune and the other members of the Senate Commerce Committee to thoroughly question Elaine Chao on her plan for 'draining the swamp' when they hold her confirmation hearing. It's time to clean up the Department of Transportation and NHTSA. The lives of thousands of American motorcyclists hang in the balance."

About the Motorcycle Action Network:

The Motorcycle Action Network is dedicated to making American streets safer for motorcyclists and the drivers around them. Its founder, Fergus Nolan, has been riding motorcycles since 1973 and is webmaster at bikesafer.com. He has a 2006 Honda ST1300A with an antilock brake system (ABS). He lives in Memphis, Tennessee, where he is a victualler and inventor by day. For more information, see motorcycleaction.org.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/new-grassroots-group-motorcycle-action-network-seeks-to-rid-us-transportation-agencies-of-corporate-influence-300380820.html>

Read another story about this <https://rideapart.com/articles/motorcycle-action-network-seeks-clean-nhtsa>

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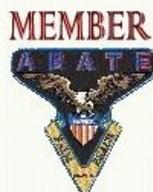


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D# links to District site for info, maps, offices, mail, etc.

FL Senators

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850-487-5025 Tallahassee
888-759-0791 Palm City

D29 Kevin Rader (D)
850-487-5029 Tallahassee
561-443-8170 Boca Raton

D30 Bobby Powell (D)
850-487-500 Tallahassee
561-650-6880 West Palm Bch

D31 Jeff Clemens (D)
850-487-5031 Tallahassee
561-540-1140 Lake Worth

FL House of Representatives

D81 Joseph Abruzzo (D)
850-717-5081 Tallahassee
561-470-2086 Boca/Belle Glade

D82 Mary Lynn Magar (R)
850-717-5082 Tallahassee
772-545-3481 Hove Sound

D85 Rich Roth (R)
850-717-5085 Tallahassee
561-625-5176 Palm Bch Grdens

D86 Matt Willhite (D)
850-717-5086 Tallahassee
561-791-4071(2) WPB

D87 David Silvers (D)
850-717-5085 Tallahassee
No local office info yet

D88 Al Jacquet (D)
850-717-5088 Tallahassee
no phone yet West Palm Bch

D89 Bill Hager (R)
850-717-5089 Tallahassee
561-470-6607 Boca Raton

D90 Lori Berman (D)
850-717-5090 Tallahassee
561-374-7850 Boynton Bch

D91 Emily Slosberg (D)
850-717-5087 Tallahassee
561-496-5940 Delray Beach

LEGISLATIVE REPORT
DAN "SLO-MOTION" HENDERSON

I had a good visit with Lori Berman House District 90. While she thinks it is a good idea to wear a helmet, she didn't think it was necessary to change the present law. She was interested in our bill as her car was hit by a car failing to yield. While no injuries, much damage to cars and she assumed the driver was cited. She thinks we should ask for an Investigation of the motorcycle safety funds. I still have to arrange for appointments with Bill Hager and Emily Slossberg as they responded to my emails. I look forward to seeing Slossberg as she is MY rep and attended the middle school I had worked at. I hope she might go for a n expanded mandatory Drivers Education program. By the time you read this I should have meet with Senator Clemens. I was ready to talk to him about his SB66 which was basically our bill with bicycle replacing motorcycle but I heard he withdrew it.

This is it is extremely important that EACH of US contacts our Legislators . I have updated the Palm Beach ones in the left side panel to contact them. At the bottom of this page is the best way to find ALL your government contacts from the Palm Beach County Board of Elections. Always be civil regardless of their opinions and be factual. The State office and I will be providing you facts to give them, contact me as I have copies. So now I turn this over to the words of our State VP and Legislative -

If you are able to schedule a face to face meeting with your Legislator can you please email Doc and I so that we can keep track of which ones are being reached. It would be a huge help to be able to keep a scoreboard of which legislators have been communicated with and how many times. If you can follow up with Doc and I about how your meeting went and how they responded, it will help us all out.

Doc's email is abatefl@att.net Mine is flabatestatevp@gmail.com

As you tell me who you are meeting with and calling, I will keep you all posted on which legislators are being reached out to.

And Please remember to be calm and well spoken when you talk to the legislators. I will be sending out more talking points over the next few days so that we can all be on the same page with a united front.

Darrin "Scribe" Brooks, State Vice President, State Legislative Trustee, ABATE of Florida, Inc.

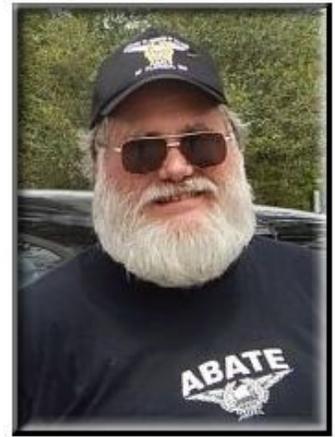
A motorcycle helmet bill has been filed in the Florida House by brand new Rep. Don Hahnfeldt a republican from District 33. District 33 is all of Sumter County, and parts of Lake and Marion Counties. HB 6009 Motorcycle Safety removes provisions authorizing certain persons over 21 years of age to operate/ride motorcycle without wearing protective headgear; provides penalties. It will make riding without a helmet a noncriminal traffic 26 infraction, punishable as a nonmoving violation as provided in 27 chapter 318.

So the fight is on, but what makes this worse are the new rules the Speaker of the House has placed on lobbyist. The only way we can defeat this is if everyone of us calls and talks to our OWN Representative personally that we are opposed to this bill. This is not something that just a few people can do, this is something that every single member of ABATE of Florida, Inc. needs to do. The Legislators are back home for the Holidays, so take time to reach out to them.

Please get this out to all your members ASAP... we have to act fast and stay in action. Please remind your members to not say or do anything stupid or aggressive to the Legislators. The last thing we need is someone getting pissed off and yelling or threatening someone.

We will fight this by giving facts and discussing CALMLY that this will not be the answer. The last DHSMV stats for 2015 show this about the motorcyclist deaths in Florida:

- Killed wearing a helmet = 276
- Killed without a helmet = 237
- Killed with non approved helmet = 20
- Killed unknown helmet or not = 13



FEDERAL

U.S. Senators

Bill Nelson

Patrick Murphy

U.S. HOUSE

District 18

Brian Mast (R)

District 20

Alcee Hastings

District 21

Lois Frankel

District 22

Ted Deutch

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 : Precinct Finder (<https://www.pbcelections.org/PrecinctFinder.aspx>) Palm Beach Elections
 : Site - put in your address and get ALL your Election Information and look under My
 : Districts for your representatives. Underlined District # , names link in the online version.
 :

I will be focusing on getting out more details and info about helmets. Florida ABATE State VP

Talking points suggestions for HB 6009

Below are a few talking points that you can use to talk with your legislators about HB 6009

Phone calls to either the legislators District office or Tally office are better than sending an email.

You have more clout with your own legislator than with one from another district. Use that clout by telling the legislators office that you are one of their constituents. To find out who your State legislators are visit this web page and enter your address.

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/myrepresentative.aspx>

The absolute most important thing is to speak to them in a calm friendly manner. Do not call angry or talk down to the person. The old saying is true "You attract more bees with honey than you do with vinegar." We cannot afford to turn any legislators against us.

When you call the legislators' office, you will almost always get the secretary or aide. Be prepared to tell your name, address and phone number. Tell them that you are a member of ABATE of Florida, Inc. _____ Chapter. If you are a regular voter then tell them that. Don't tell them you vote if you rarely ever vote.

If you do vote regularly, the past few general and primary elections you are a Super Voter. This carries more clout because they now know that you actually do get out and vote.

Tell the person at the office that you are opposed to HB 6009 and you would like the legislator help fight against this bill. Something as simple as:

"Hello, my name is Darrin Brooks, 1234 Main Street in Naples, Florida. I am a member of ABATE of Florida, Gator Alley Chapter in Collier County. I am call to ask for Rep. Donalds help in opposing HB 6009. I live in Rep. Donalds district and I vote in every single election. Please let Rep. Donalds know that I am opposed to HB 6009 and I would like his help opposing this bill. Thank you."

Occasionally they might ask you why you are opposed to the bill. If the office is busy that day they probably will not ask you why you are opposed.

Here are a few short easy to give reasons why you oppose HB 6009:

There has not been any definitive proof that simply wearing a helmet will guarantee saving a life. In 2015, 296 motorcyclists were killed in Florida while wearing a helmet. This is compared to 237 killed without a helmet.

There is no definitive proof that all motorcyclists killed without a helmet died from head injuries.

There is no definitive proof that the cost of medical treatment to an injured motorcyclist is actually passed on to "society" to pay. People for the mandatory helmet law love to say that "X amount of dollars for motorcyclists medical bills are passed on to the citizens of Florida". This is simply illogical and is presumptive that ALL motorcyclist have no insurance at all.

If the only reason for this bill is to save lives, then support a statewide Motorcycle Awareness Program. Education not legislation can save more lives.

\$2.50 of all motorcycle registration fees goes into a motorcycle awareness education fund. Give ABATE of Florida at least 25% of that yearly money and we can mount a Statewide Motorcycle Awareness program that is effective, efficient and saves the State of Florida lives and money.

When done, Thank the person for listening and let them know that if they have any further questions we will get back with them. Then contact Doc and myself so that we can answer their questions.

Thank you,

On Thu, Dec 22, 2016 at 1:31 PM, Florida ABATE State VP <flabatestatevp@gmail.com> wrote:

Hey Everyone,

Below are a few crash stats from the DHSMV 2015 Crash Report. I have placed a link to it below.

https://flhsmv.gov/pdf/crashreports/crash_facts_2015.pdf

Total crashes means ALL crashes involving a motorized vehicle, car , truck, motorcycle, etc....

Total Deaths means ALL deaths involved in a motorized vehicle crash

M/C crashes and deaths means crashes where a motorcycle was involved either with another vehicle or by itself (hit pole, ran off curve, etc.)

Alcohol SUSPECTED crashes and deaths means any motorized vehicle crash/death where the investigating officer SUSPECTS alcohol was involved. (Cars, Trucks, motorcycles, etc.)

Pedestrian crashes and deaths means all crashes that involve a pedestrian vs any type of motorized vehicle.

The percentage number in parenthesis after the total in each category is the percentage of the Total number of ALL crashes.

Example: **M/C deaths 427 (17%)** The 17% what percentage of all deaths from motorized vehicle crashes were motorcyclist.

The reason I included the percentages of each category is because the opposition loves to say Motorcyclist account for 17% of all crash deaths. Now we have the stats to show that pedestrians and alcohol suspected deaths account for a much higher percentage of crash deaths than motorcycles.

I know that is a lot of math and a very long explanation, but I want to clear up any confusion.

Here are some quick stats that are from the DHSMV 2015 report.

	2014	2015
Total Crashes	344,170	374,342
Total Deaths	2,494	2,939
M/C crashes	9,854 (2.8% of total)	10,201 (2.7%)
M/C deaths	427 (17%)	546 (18.5%)
Alcohol suspected crashes	16,873 (4.9%)	16,400 (4.4%)
Alcohol suspected deaths	849 (34%)	908 (31%)
Pedestrian involved crashes	8,838 (2.5%)	9,085 (2.4%)
Pedestrian deaths	606 (24%)	632 (22%)

STATE WARNS ABOUT RED LIGHT TICKET SCAM

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is warning about a scam in which motorists receive emails about fictitious red-light citations. The scam, which has been happening for a few weeks, includes victims being asked for prompt payment to avoid extra fees. The emailed notice includes a hyperlink to a payment page and threatens recipients with repeated late fees and suspension of their driver's licenses if payments are not sent. Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles spokeswoman Beth Frady said the bogus emails include the department's logo, making them look more legitimate. But she said the department does not email citations, and online payments are not required by the department. "If they have received this email, they need to either ignore it, or if they have responded and were a victim, they need to go ahead and refute the charges with their financial institution as well as put fraud alerts on their accounts," Frady said. Motorists who receive citations they think might be scams may contact the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or local clerks of court.

RED-LIGHT CAMERAS AGAIN IN THE CROSSHAIRS

In what has become an annual debate, a South Florida senator filed a proposal Thursday that would repeal the state's red-light camera law. Sen. Frank Artiles, R-Miami, filed the proposal (SB 178) for consideration during the 2017 legislative session, which starts in March. Artiles, who was elected to the Senate last month after serving in the House, has been a longtime critic of the use of cameras to crack down on motorists who drive through red lights. But past attempts to repeal the red-light camera law have failed. Supporters of red-light cameras contend they help improve traffic safety, but critics argue the devices are used to generate revenue for local governments.

LAWMAKERS FACE HARD CHOICE ON SCHOOL FUNDING

State lawmakers will need to decide whether to hold property taxes flat or have the option of providing a significant funding increase to public schools, the chairman of the Senate budget-writing committee said Thursday. The remarks added new urgency to an emerging debate over what to do about a decision by the Legislature early this year to ensure that property owners' taxes didn't go up in the current budget year just because property values rose. Continuing that policy next year could cost the state more than \$400 million, according to state economists. "I think it's clear to me that if we don't capture the new property values, there will be very slim if any increases for K-12," said Senate Appropriations Chairman Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater. "So if we want to provide any local school district increases, I think we're going to have to allow them to take the additional property value." Latvala made the remarks after his committee held a hearing on the state's budget forecast and some of the challenges it could face. His comments on education funding could prove controversial among Republicans who hold commanding majorities on both sides of the Capitol. House Speaker Richard Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, seemed to indicate to reporters at a press conference last month that he would like to continue holding down property taxes. "This year, if we're not going to also do that again ... then you're going to be de facto raising people's property taxes," Corcoran said. He was even more explicit in remarks reported later by the Naples Daily News: "I don't care if we have to come back for special session 18,000 times, we're not raising property taxes," he said. Because of the way Florida's education budget is structured, holding down property taxes could cause the state's schools to forego \$427.6 million that they would otherwise expect to receive, according to an estimate this summer by state economists. The Legislature would have to kick in state money if it wants to make up the difference.

LOBBYISTS LEARN THE ROPES ON NEW RULES

By BRANDON LARRABEE THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, December 13, 2016..... Advocates for local governments, big business and all other manner of interests touched by Tallahassee crammed into a room Tuesday for the first of two training meetings to prepare for the 2017 legislative session.

The subject was new House rules governing how lobbyists conduct business when pushing for bills and budget items. And at times, it was clearly a meeting of the lawyers, by the lawyers and for the lawyers.

"Simple guide: Until you become interested in the promotion or modification of or opposition to legislation or possible legislation proposed by anyone or pending in the House or Senate, you're not lobbying an issue," said Don Rubottom, staff director for the Public Integrity and Ethics Committee, in trying to parse what constitutes lobbying.

The new rules, the brainchild of new House Speaker Richard Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, are aimed at forcing lobbyists and in some cases lawmakers to be a bit more open about what's going on behind the scenes.

Budget projects targeted at individual governments or businesses --- and often pushed by lobbyists --- will have to be filed as individual bills before the House will consider folding them into the state spending plan. And it's no longer enough for lobbyists to just register as such, and list for whom they work; they now have to disclose which issues they are lobbying on.

In addition, lobbyists working for government entities are required to provide their contracts to the House.

That could lead to a deluge of new paperwork for those who work the process in Tallahassee.

"The answer is sure, there's a lot of additional work," said Ron Book, a lobbyist with an extensive practice that includes many local government contracts. "And we're all trying to learn the process."

Rubottom and JoAnne Leznoff, who oversees the House budget staff, spent close to two hours answering scenarios they came up with and questions that lobbyists pitched at them. Another training session is scheduled Wednesday.

Rubottom stressed that, for now, the House is trying to encourage lobbyists to play by the rules.

"We're not playing gotcha here," he said. "We're trying to get these issues in the public, so everybody knows who's working on what in the House."

At the same time, there was clearly a warning to those who might be tempted to try to come up with clever workarounds. For example: "Overdisclosure" --- listing a blizzard of issues meant to make it difficult to figure out what the lobbyist is working on --- is frowned upon.

"It's a fictitious response," Rubottom said. "It hides the bill you're actually lobbying. It calls attention to the one doing so. It fills our data set with garbage. It's a great way to get a call from us and get a little professional assistance."

In a meeting last week with House members, Rubottom also raised the possibility that lobbyists could turn on each other, filing complaints to try to harm opponents. Book seemed to downplay the possibility of that happening.

"I don't believe that I'm supposed to be here to be a lobbyist cop and report on other people," he said. "Maybe other people think that they are. ... I think that when people run around and don't do the right thing, eventually it'll catch up with them."

Leznoff, meanwhile, worked to describe what does and doesn't amount to a budget project for the purposes of the House rule requiring each of those proposals to be filed as a different bill. As with the lobbying rule, there was nuance but also some rules of thumb.

"Really focus on the notion of something that is specifically named, that is typically a private entity, local government or privately operated program --- that's where 95 percent of the projects are," she said.

LAWMAKER SEEKS TO REPEAL 'PIP' AUTO INSURANCE

Renewing a long-running debate on the issue, a Senate Republican on Tuesday filed a proposal that would repeal the state's no-fault auto insurance laws. Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Chairman Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg, said the repeal of a requirement to carry personal-injury protection, or PIP, coverage would help lower premiums. "PIP is a broken insurance system, and it does not reflect the reality of Florida's transportation future," Brandes said in a prepared statement. "PIP fraud impacts every driver in our state, and no proposal is more effective at reducing premiums than a full repeal of PIP. It's time to finally bring substantive reform to the automobile insurance market." The bill (SB 156), which is filed for the 2017 legislative session, follows similar proposals that failed to pass in recent years. Under the no-fault system, motorists are required to carry \$10,000 in PIP coverage to help pay for medical expenses after accidents. Brandes' bill includes a requirement for motorists to carry bodily injury liability coverage.

STATE MOVES FORWARD WITH ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

Work remains on pace to allow online voter registration in Florida by next October, state elections officials told lawmakers Tuesday. "We did have a little bit of a hiatus with our meetings. Obviously, we were trying to get through the election, but we have resumed and will continue full steam ahead," Maria Matthews, director of the state Division of Elections, told members of the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee. Also Tuesday, Secretary of State Ken Detzner said the state's election database and voting systems remained secured throughout 2016. "Since 2015 more than half of Florida's 67 counties, 48 in all, have modernized their voting systems," Detzner said. The online voter-registration system was mandated by lawmakers in 2015. The system must function between the county elections supervisors and a Department of

Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles database. Matthews said tests will begin by April on the system. When Gov. Rick Scott signed the bill into law, he raised concerns about cybersecurity. Lawmakers included \$1.8 million to pay for setting up the system.

LAWMAKER PROPOSES \$10M PROGRAM FOR VETERANS' HIRING

A South Florida lawmaker Tuesday filed a proposal that would set aside \$10 million for grants to small businesses that hire veterans. The proposal (SB 152), filed by Sen. Rene Garcia, R-Hialeah, will be considered during the 2017 legislative session, which starts in March. Under the bill, lawmakers would earmark \$10 million for the group Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., which would administer the grants. The group would award grants totaling up to \$900,000 a year. Small businesses would be able to receive one-time grants of \$3,000 for each newly hired veteran and \$5,000 for each newly hired disabled veteran, the bill says. A small business would not be eligible to receive more than \$25,000 a year in grants.

SENATE BILL WOULD ALLOW OPENLY CARRYING GUNS

Senate Judiciary Chairman Greg Steube, R-Sarasota, introduced a controversial measure Friday that would allow the more than 1.67 million Floridians with concealed-weapons licenses to openly carry handguns. Steube's bill (SB 140), which is filed for the 2017 legislative session, also would expand the places where people with concealed-weapons licenses are allowed to carry guns. It would allow them to be armed at legislative meetings; local government meetings; elementary and secondary schools; airport passenger terminals; and college and university campuses. License holders would still be prohibited from carrying weapons at locations such as police stations, jails, courtrooms, polling places and most bars. During the 2016 session, the open-carry measure was approved 80-38 in the House but failed to advance through the Senate Judiciary Committee, which was chaired by former Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla, R-Miami. Diaz de la Portilla lost a re-election bid in November. A bill that would have allowed people with concealed-weapons licenses to carry guns on university and college campuses also died in the Senate Judiciary Committee during the 2016 session. This week, Rep. Scott Plakon, R-Longwood, reintroduced a House version of the campus-carry measure (HB 6005) for the 2017 session. Also, Rep. Jake Raburn, R-Lithia, has proposed a bill (HB 6001) that would allow people with concealed-weapons licenses to bring guns into the passenger terminals of airports.

GUN ISSUES TO GET QUICK AIRING IN SENATE

State lawmakers next month will have their first chance to discuss a controversial measure that would expand how and where Florida's more than 1.67 million concealed-weapons license holders can carry handguns. The Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. Greg Steube, is scheduled Jan. 10 to take up the measure (SB 140), which would allow people with concealed-weapons licenses to openly carry handguns in public and also would allow them to be armed on college and university campuses. Under the bill, they also could carry guns at airport



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passenger terminals; in elementary and secondary schools; and at legislative and local government meetings. Steube is sponsoring the bill, which is matched in part by separate proposals in the House. During the 2016 session, open-carry and campus-carry measures failed to advance through the Senate Judiciary Committee, which was chaired by former Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla, R-Miami. He lost a re-election bid in November. The campus-carry proposal has been opposed by university and college leaders, campus law-enforcement officials and faculty members. Also on the Jan. 10 agenda is a measure (SB 128) that would shift the burden of proof in "stand your ground" self-defense cases. The bill would shift the burden of proof to prosecutors during evidentiary hearings in such cases. The bill stems from a Florida Supreme Court ruling in 2015 that said defendants have the burden of proof to show they should be shielded from prosecution under the "stand your ground" law. In "stand your ground" cases, pre-trial evidentiary hearings are held to determine whether defendants should be immune from prosecution. The same proposal passed the Senate during the 2016 session but failed to get to the House floor.

GUN PROPOSALS COULD HAVE BETTER SHOT IN SENATE

A measure that would expand how and where Florida's more than 1.67 million concealed-weapons license holders can carry handguns may have an easier path through the Senate in 2017 than in the past.

Senate President Joe Negron, R-Stuart, this week sent the bill (SB 140) to three committees, two of which are led by prominent gun-rights supporters. The bill would need to make it through the committees before it could be considered by the full Senate during the 2017 legislative session, which starts in March.

"I've always been a strong proponent of the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens," Negron said Tuesday before he assigned the bill to committees.

The bill, sponsored by Senate Judiciary Chairman Greg Steube, R-Sarasota, would allow people with concealed-weapons licenses to openly carry handguns in public and also would allow them to be armed on college and university campuses. They also could carry guns at airport passenger terminals; in elementary and secondary schools; and at legislative and local government meetings.

Negron assigned the measure to the Steube-led Judiciary Committee and to the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee, which is chaired by Ocala Republican Dennis Baxley, who in 2005 sponsored the House version of the state's "stand-your-ground" self-defense law.

The Senate president Tuesday also assigned the bill to the Rules Committee, which is led by Fort Myers Republican Lizbeth Benacquisto. While not as prominent as Steube and Baxley on gun-related issues, Benacquisto in 2016 voted during a Higher Education Committee meeting in favor of allowing concealed-weapons license holders to carry guns on college and university campuses.

Influential National Rifle Association lobbyist Marion Hammer praised Negron when asked about the committee assignments for the bill. But she wouldn't make any prediction on the bill's future.

"It is my hope that Senate members will have an opportunity to vote on this bill," Hammer said Wednesday in an email.

During the 2016 session, open-carry and campus-carry measures failed to advance through the Senate Judiciary Committee, which was chaired by former Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla, R-Miami. Diaz de la Portilla lost a re-election bid in November.

The campus-carry proposal has been opposed by university and college leaders, campus law-enforcement officials and faculty members.

Florida State University President John Thrasher, a former House speaker and senator, this month reiterated his strong opposition to allowing guns on university and college campuses.

As a member of the Senate, Thrasher helped kill a bill in 2011 that would have allowed gun owners with concealed-weapons licenses to bring their firearms on campuses.

"I opposed it. I killed it. I have worked against it since then," Thrasher told the FSU faculty during his annual "state of the university" address on Dec. 7. "And you have my promise that I will work against it this year also."

The proposals during the 2016 session first went through the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, where they drew narrow support. Negron has named Sen. Randolph Bracy, D-Orlando, to chair that committee in 2017, but it appears the panel will not hear the Steube bill.

Parts of Steube's proposal appear in separate measures that have been filed in the House for the 2017 session.

Rep. Scott Plakon, R-Longwood, introduced a House version of the campus-carry measure (HB 6005). Also, Rep. Jake Raburn, R-Lithia, has proposed a bill (HB 6001) that would allow people with concealed-weapons licenses to bring guns into the passenger terminals of airports.

The House overwhelmingly approved campus-carry and open-carry bills during the 2016 session. Steube and Baxley, who were elected to the Senate last month after serving in the House, voted for both bills.

BURDEN OF PROOF CHANGE SOUGHT IN SELF-DEFENSE CASES

A controversial proposal to shift the burden of proof in "stand your ground" self-defense cases has been refiled in the Florida Senate. Fleming Island Republican Rob Bradley on Thursday filed the measure (SB 128) for the 2017 legislative session, which starts in March. The bill would shift the burden of proof to prosecutors during evidentiary hearings in self-defense cases. The bill stems from a Florida Supreme Court ruling in 2015 that said defendants have the burden of proof to show they should be shielded from prosecution under the "stand your ground" law. In "stand your ground" cases, pre-trial evidentiary hearings are held to determine whether defendants should be immune from prosecution. "The government has the burden of proof in a criminal case from the beginning of a case until the end," Bradley said in a prepared statement Thursday. "This fundamental premise is guaranteed in our Constitution and understood intuitively by all Floridians." The same proposal passed the Senate during the 2016 session but failed to get to the House floor. Bradley's bill joins other gun-related measures filed for the 2017 session. Rep. Scott Plakon, R-Longwood, this week filed a bill (HB 6005) that would allow people with concealed-weapons licenses to carry guns while on college and university campuses. A separate measure (HB 6001) by Rep. Jake Raburn, R-Lithia, would allow people with concealed-weapons licenses to bring guns into the passenger terminals of airports.

CAMPUS CARRY PROPOSAL EMERGES IN HOUSE

A controversial measure that would allow people with concealed-weapons licenses to pack heat while on college and university campuses was filed Wednesday by state Rep. Scott Plakon, R-Longwood. The proposal (HB 6005) is filed for the 2017 legislative session, which starts in March. Second Amendment groups backed such legislation during the 2016 session, while it was opposed by many faculty members,

university and college presidents, and campus law enforcement. The 2016 measure was approved in the House but did not get through the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sen. Greg Steube, a Sarasota Republican who was a primary sponsor of the House campus-carry measure during the 2016 session, is expected to file a bill that includes similar language in the Senate. Steube also was named last month as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. A separate measure (HB 6001) that would allow people with concealed-weapons licenses to bring guns into the passenger terminals of airports also has been filed in the House for the 2017 session. A version of that bill failed to pass during the 2016 session.

THRASHER TAKES AIM AT GUNS ON CAMPUS

By LLOYD DUNKELBERGER THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, December 7, 2016..... In his annual "state of the university" address on Wednesday, Florida State University President John Thrasher reiterated his strong opposition to allowing guns on university and college campuses.

As a member of the Florida Senate, Thrasher helped kill a bill in 2011 that would have allowed gun owners with concealed-weapons licenses to bring their firearms to Florida's university and state-college campuses.

"I opposed it. I killed it. I have worked against it since then," Thrasher told the FSU faculty. "And you have my promise that I will work against it this year also."

The so-called "campus carry" bill, which in the past has been approved by the House, has already re-emerged as an issue for the 2017 legislative session. Rep. Scott Plakon, R-Longwood, filed a new version of the bill (HB 6005) on Wednesday.

The issue also may have more support in 2017 in the Senate, where newly elected Sen. Greg Steube, R-Sarasota, a major supporter, has been named chairman of the Judiciary Committee. That committee is where the proposal, strongly backed by Second Amendment groups, died during the 2016 session.

Thrasher, a former House speaker and Senate Rules Committee chairman, said he continues to agree with other university and college leaders, campus law enforcement officials and faculty members "that having more guns on campus does not make our campus safer."

A former chairman of the Florida Republican Party, Thrasher also said during the address Wednesday he would urge incoming President Donald Trump not to repeal President Barack Obama's 2012 executive directive that gives undocumented immigrants who came to the country as children the right to work and study in the United States.

The so-called "Dreamers," or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, program has allowed some 740,000 immigrants to obtain work permits or remain in school without the fear of deportation, according to federal officials.

"I think it's the right thing to do," Thrasher said. "And I will help these students and others find a better path to the future."

His support for the "Dreamers" was part of a major portion of Thrasher's speech in which he emphasized that "diversity and inclusion" at FSU remain a priority for his administration.

"These are not just buzzwords to me," Thrasher said. "They reflect the values of Florida State University, a place that offered me an education and opportunities I never would have had otherwise."

In the more-traditional part of his speech, Thrasher outlined a host of achievements for the university, which has 42,000 students and is classified as one of two "pre-eminent" schools in the state.

He noted FSU jumped five spots in the annual U.S. News & World Report rankings to 38th on the list of top public universities, with the school positioned to achieve its goal of being a top-25 school.

Fund-raising is robust, boosted by a \$100 million gift from Jan Moran and the Jim Moran Foundation that is helping FSU create a new school, which Thrasher said will "change the face of entrepreneurial education in America."

Thrasher pointed to a number of academic achievements by the FSU faculty, including research into the Zika virus and a major increase in research funding and grants. FSU has received a \$10 million federal grant to create a center focused on improving nuclear waste cleanup.

Heading toward the 2017 legislative session, Thrasher said FSU would seek a significant funding boost to further raise the quality of the school, including an emphasis on graduate programs.

With lawmakers, like Senate President Joe Negron, R-Stuart, talking about initiatives aimed at improving Florida's higher-education system, Thrasher said he is "optimistic" about university funding in the coming session.

NEGRON NAMES SIMPSON, OTHERS TO LEADERSHIP POSTS

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, November 29, 2016..... Senate President Joe Negron put the finishing touches on his leadership team Tuesday, tapping Republican Sen. Wilton Simpson of Trilby as majority leader and handing out committee assignments to all 40 members.

Key committee chairmanships went to Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto, a Fort Myers Republican who will lead the Rules Committee; Sen. Travis Hutson, an Elkton Republican who will head up the Regulated Industries Committee, which frequently considers gambling legislation; and new Sen. Greg Steube, a Sarasota Republican who received the gavel for the Judiciary Committee.

Steube's assignment could have an impact on gun legislation in the Senate, which has traditionally been more moderate about loosening restrictions on firearms. Former Judiciary Chairman Miguel Diaz de la Portilla bottled up bills during the 2016 session that would have allowed people with concealed-weapons licenses to carry guns on college campuses and would have allowed people with licenses to openly carry firearms.

Diaz de la Portilla, R-Miami, was defeated for re-election earlier this month. Steube, meanwhile, strongly supported efforts by the National Rifle Association and others to relax gun regulations during his time in the House. Shortly before his appointment, Steube said he would continue his efforts in the upper chamber.

"Certainly, we are going to continue to work to try to promote the rights of the Second Amendment and for concealed-carry permit holders," he said. "I don't know what that legislation is going to look like yet; we haven't put it together yet. We are actually just starting to get things into drafting, but I think there is definitely a different climate and environment in the Senate this year."

Senate Minority Leader Oscar Braynon, D-Miami Gardens, indicated he believed there is still a chance to defeat the legislation.

"I believe one of the reasons that those bills died was not just because that chairman (Diaz de la Portilla) held back the bills," Braynon said. "I think the Senate was probably not willing to hear those bills. The same will probably be true this year."

Elsewhere, Sen. Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater, was formally named chairman of the powerful Appropriations Committee. The move had already been announced as part of a deal that ended a heated leadership contest between Latvala and Negron, R-Stuart.

Sen. Bill Galvano, a Bradenton Republican expected to follow Negron as president, will lead a subcommittee in charge of higher-education funding --- one of Negron's top priorities over the next two years. Sen. David Simmons, R-Altamonte Springs, will chair the elementary and secondary education counterpart to Galvano's budget panel. Sen. Dorothy Hukill, R-Port Orange, will chair the Senate Education Committee, which will oversee policy issues in both areas.

The subcommittee handling health-care spending will be overseen by Sen. Anitere Flores of Miami, who had already been named the No. 2 Republican in the chamber. Flores will also chair the Banking and Insurance Committee. New Sen. Dana Young, R-Tampa, will chair the Health Policy Committee.

Democrats chairing committees include Sen. Bill Montford of Tallahassee, who will lead the Commerce and Tourism Committee; new Sen. Randolph Bracy of Orlando, who will oversee the Criminal Justice Committee; Sen. Audrey Gibson of Jacksonville, who will chair the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee; and new Sen. Lauren Book of Plantation, appointed to lead the Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee.

Other chairmen include new Sen. Keith Perry, R-Gainesville, for Agriculture; Sen. Rene Garcia, R-Hialeah, for Children, Families and Elder Affairs; Sen. Tom Lee, R-Brandon, for Community Affairs; new Sen. Dennis Baxley, R-Ocala, for Governmental Oversight and Accountability; new Sen. Frank Artiles, R-Miami, for Communications, Energy and Public Utilities; new Sen. Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, for Ethics and Elections; and new Sen. George Gainer, R-Panama City for Transportation.

Chairing the subcommittees for parts of the state budget are Sen. Aaron Bean, R-Fernandina Beach, for criminal and civil justice; Sen. Kelli Stargel, R-Lakeland, whose panel will handle tax legislation; Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, who will oversee spending on the environment and natural resources; Sen. Jeff Brandes, a St. Petersburg Republican now charged with the budget for transportation, tourism and economic development; and Sen. Denise Grimsley, R-Sebring, who will oversee the general government budget.

HOUSE MEMBERS GET CRASH COURSE AT 'LEGISLATOR U'

By BRANDON LARRABEE THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, December 6, 2016..... There were no sorority rushes or intramural sports, but Florida House members returned to Tallahassee on Tuesday for "Legislator University," a two-day series of courses meant to discuss the finer points of maneuvering the Capitol.

In addition to pointers on how to, for example, balance life at home with spending a few months in North Florida, the sessions also provided lawmakers a chance to get a handle on sweeping rules changes introduced by House Speaker Richard Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, that deal with budget projects and lobbyist disclosure.

But on a basic level, the sessions were meant to make sure lawmakers know the ropes well enough to be effective --- something that could be particularly important for the 46 new House members in the 120-seat chamber.

"Regardless of your ideology, a legislator who knows what they are doing and who knows how to maneuver through this process is better than one who is easily affected by outside forces," said House Rules & Policy Chairman Jose Oliva, R-Miami Lakes.

Still, one of the focuses remained the new guidelines for how business should be done in the House. One of Corcoran's changes requires lobbyists to disclose which issues they're working on --- a departure from past practice, where they simply had to register to work for certain clients.

Don Rubottom, staff director for the Public Integrity and Ethics Committee, said the focus for now was on making sure that lobbyists follow the new rules, not cracking down on every small infraction.

"The mandate we've been given from the speaker's office as staff is that we want lobbyists to comply," he told one of the classes. "This isn't about punishment, this isn't about fines, this isn't about penalties --- it's about compliance."

He also noted that the extent of problems with the rules might not just be something for the Legislature to decide.

"The sad thing is going to be if lobbyists start filing a bunch of complaints against each other, because we're going to have a lot of administrative work to do," Rubottom said.

One of the more talked-about new rules requires any lawmaker who wants a local project to be funded in the budget to file an individual bill for the proposal. But House members learned some of the nuances of the rule on Tuesday; for example, a project requested by a state agency would generally not need a stand-alone bill to make the cut.

House Appropriations Chairman Carlos Trujillo, R-Miami, warned that a possibly tight budget means that any project proposal will need to be paid for. Lawmakers are currently expected to have about \$7.5 million in extra funding to work with next year, against a budget exceeding \$80 billion --- and Corcoran has already said he expects even that small surplus to evaporate.

"They have to be meritorious," Trujillo said of the projects. "And given the current state of our economy in the state of Florida and our flat-line projections, in order for you to add your project we have to take something out."

"We don't want this to turn into Lord of the Flies," he joked later. "But at the same time, we have to be cognizant of that."

The rules could discourage at least some groups from asking for additional money. The new projects will all be one-time funding that won't continue from year to year. And if a group that is receiving year-to-year money asks for an increase, all the state spending on that project would be converted to one-time money.

"Most of those constituencies are not going to want that," said JoAnne Leznoff, who leads the staff on Trujillo's committee.

Leznoff also told lawmakers they need to send the proposals to the House by Feb. 7 to guarantee that projects could be filed as bills by the time the legislative session opens in March.

Elsewhere, rhubarb-strawberry pie and chocolate cake were used to teach lawmakers about which amendments go first in debates over legislation, and lawmakers discussed ideas like civility in the process.

"Political civility is allowing the minority party a place at the table, but it is also the minority party not poking the majority party in the eye every chance that they get," said Rep. Kristin Jacobs, D- Coconut Creek.

Dec. 6 SENATE SCHEDULES FOUR DAYS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

With committee leaders and members appointed this week, the Senate has scheduled four days of committee meetings in mid-December as it starts to prepare for the 2017 legislative session. The meetings will start Dec. 12 with time set aside for the Agriculture Committee, the Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee, the Commerce and Tourism Committee, the Criminal Justice Committee and the Education Committee, according to a schedule posted on the Senate website. Meeting times are scheduled the following days for 21 other committees and subcommittees, wrapping up Dec. 15 with meetings of the Rules Committee and the Appropriations Committee. The 2017 legislative session starts March 7.

MRF December 1, 2016 EPA Finalizes 2017 Volume Requirements for Ethanol

WASHINGTON, DC – Last week, the EPA quietly published the 2017 volume requirements and associated percentage standards under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program passed into law by Congress several years ago. The law requires oil companies to blend increasing volumes of renewable fuels like ethanol with gasoline and diesel. Under the law, the EPA has the authority to designate volume requirements, which according to the 2007 law passed by Congress must reach 36 billion gallons by the year 2022. However, the law does provide the EPA with some authority to lower the annual volumes as circumstances warrant.

The 2017 requirements were published just days before the Thanksgiving holiday. Every year, the EPA adjusts the amount of renewable fuel it requires oil refiners to pump into the nation's gas supply. After initially signaling lower renewable fuel goals, the agency reversed course. According to the EPA Press Release, total renewable fuel volumes grew by 1.2 billion gallons from 2016 to 2017, a 6 % increase. Ethanol enthusiasts were quick to praise the EPA. Senator Joni Ernst, a Republican from the corn-producing state of Iowa, released a statement saying this:

"I am pleased the EPA has finally listened to the American people as well as the comments my colleagues and I have pushed forward, and set the final volume requirements for conventional biofuels for 2017 at appropriate and congressionally approved levels. The RFS is critical in reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and provides consumers with choices at the pump. Most importantly, it spurs investment and research in renewable fuels and supports our rural economy in Iowa."

Critics of the RFS program were not shy to voice their opinion on the EPA announcement. The American Petroleum Institute called the increase "irresponsible" and a bad deal for the American consumer and again called for repeal or significant reform. The American Petroleum Institute represents the oil and natural gas industry in Washington, DC.

The U.S. Congressional Energy and Commerce Committee which has jurisdiction over the issue released a statement signed by Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI), Energy and Power Subcommittee Vice Chairman Pete Olson (R-TX), and Environment and the Economy Subcommittee Chairman John Shimkus (R-IL). The statement indicated that they still believed the "right balance" needed to found on the issue of ethanol, but they praised EPA for meeting its statutory deadlines set forth in the 2007 law and vowed to continue to monitor the issue going forward.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) and other consumers of small-engine motors continue to have concerns about the effects of higher blends of ethanol in gasoline and the potential to cause severe damage to their bikes. The MRF is working with stakeholders on both sides of the ethanol debate to negotiate common sense alternatives that would allow the RFS program to continue while keeping in mind the interests of the American street biker.

The EPA press release can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/renewable-fuel-standard-program/final-renewable-fuel-standards-2017-and-biomass-based-diesel-volume>

Friday the 13th Tattoo Marathon

📅 Friday, January 13, 2017 ⌚ 1PM-7PM 📍 Palm Beach Harley-Davidson

Artists On-Site!
Friday, Jan. 13th
1PM-7PM

FRIDAY THE 13TH
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First Come First Serve
Must be 18 with valid ID

CASH ONLY!

Letter: The Truth About Motorcycle Helmets

By Town-Crier Letters Editor at December 30, 2016

We've all heard time and again, over and over, that motorcycle helmets save lives. Unfortunately, this is not entirely true. The truth is that motorcycle helmets are designed to reduce the net impact on a rider's skull by about 20 mph. What this means is that a helmet impact of under 20 mph is highly survivable. However, impacts over 20 mph are less and less survivable as the speed increases.

According to the Department of Highway Safety, in 2015, the number of Florida motorcycle fatalities where the riders were wearing helmets vastly exceeded the number of fatalities without helmets. While this isn't saying that helmets are useless, it is saying that there are other factors besides wearing a helmet that contribute to a motorcycle fatality.

Now if you have ever watched MotoGP racing on TV, you probably have seen motorcycles wipe out on the track at 180 mph and then the helmeted rider gets up, brushes himself off and walks away. So what gives? If helmets only protect to 20 mph, why is it that a crash on the track at 180 mph is so easily survivable? The answer is that the helmet impact speed on the track was not 180 mph, it was actually only about 10 mph. This is the speed a rider gets from falling off the motorcycle a distance to the ground of about 6 feet. Remember, it's the collision speed and not necessarily the forward speed that matters.

Conversely, take the case of a motorcyclist riding at 45 mph and a car doesn't see him and pulls into his path trying to make a left turn. In this case, the impact speed is the same as the forward speed. A helmet impact speed of 45 mph is not easily survivable.

You might have guessed by now that I ride a motorcycle. I choose to wear a helmet just because. However, it's difficult for older riders to find a reasonably priced, good-fitting helmet because the majority of them are designed for young kids. So, adults with larger heads either have to pay \$600 for a properly sized helmet or do without. Ever wonder why some bikers have a reputation for being mean? Try wearing a helmet that is 6 sizes too small and see if you don't get a little testy.

The reason I am writing this is that a new Florida bill (HB 6009/2017) by Representative Don Hahnfeldt of Sumter County is trying to make helmets mandatory for motorcycle riders. While under the guise of "motorcycle safety," it's actually a "punish bikers" law. As stated above, while many riders, such as myself, prefer to wear a helmet, it simply isn't practical for all riders. Hahnfeldt knows that not all riders can afford properly fitted helmets or may have other reasons why a helmet is not feasible, yet he persists in pushing a mandatory helmet law with no exceptions.

Other "punish the bikers" laws are already on the books. For example, if you pop a wheelie on a motorcycle, this carries the highest civil penalty of \$5,000 for the third offense plus a 10-year license suspension. The first offense is only \$1,000. Compare that to the fine for drunk driving in a car, which is only \$500 for the first offense and \$1,000 for the second. Is there anyone that seriously believes that popping a wheelie (something that can only be done by a highly skilled rider) is more dangerous than drunk driving? Why then is the penalty for popping a wheelie, even an accidental one, double that of driving drunk in a car? Answer: It's the lawmakers' way of punishing bikers.

When I took my required motorcycle course to get my license, the instructor calmly told the students that, "If you wear a helmet, you cannot be killed on a motorcycle." Unfortunately, that statement is an outright lie. Even though Florida does not require helmets, more riders in 2015 died while wearing a helmet than without. When you hear a news report of a young motorcyclist who hit the guard rail at 240 mph and ground himself into pink slime, you can be assured of two things: a) he was wearing a helmet; and b) he didn't think he could be killed.

Even still, I encourage all riders to wear a helmet if they can, but we don't need another "punish the bikers" law making it mandatory.

Dennis Hawkins, The Acreage

ABATE Palm Beach Chapter Meeting Minutes December 18, 2016

Meeting Called to order at 11:40 AM 17 Members Present 0 Guest Present
Meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence

PRESIDENT: Thanked everyone for attending our event. Event went well 152 people showed up, Chapter stickers are available again

VICE PRESIDENT: Nothing to report.

SECRETARY: Asked if anyone had any objections to last month's meeting minutes as published in chapter newsletter. There were none.

TREASURER: Excused. Chapter is in good standing.

MEMBERSHIP: Excused.

SARGENT AT ARMS: Meet up at Hard Rock being planned for sometime January

SAFETY: Listed local events safety is planning to set up at.

DELEGATE: Next State meeting to be held in Ocala. State VP is planning on attending January chapter meeting

LEGISLATIVE: Spoke with Representative Bermann about issues. Working on meetings with other representatives.

PR/COMMUNICATIONS: All is well

PRODUCTS: Excused

NEWSLETTER: Got one new advertiser. Working on HD.

OLD BUSINESS: Chapter event went well. Thanks to all who helped out.

NEW BUSINESS: Peace River Event date may be changed..

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Jan 7 Skulls De Fiero MC are having an event. Also on Jan 7 is a Steak Dinner at Lone Legion Brotherhood MC. Jan 6 will be States MC Blessing of the bikes. 50/50 was called and won by Big Bad Fred who donated his winnings to the chapter.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:08 pm

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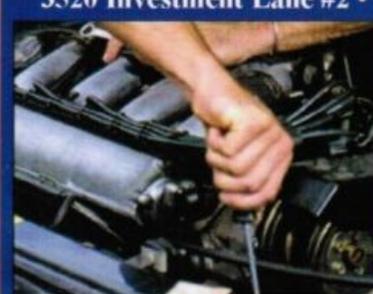
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WHY JOIN ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC.?

ABATE of Florida Inc. is a non-profit Motorcycle Rights Organization whose cause is to EDUCATE the government, motorcyclists and the general public on freedom, rights, road safety, and awareness of motorcycles on the road.

REQUIREMENTS—must be at least 18 years of age. It does not matter what you or even if you ride. You can be an independent or member of a club or association. All are welcome at meetings.

JOIN FOR THE CAUSE. Everything is voluntary, we understand work and family comes first. We hope you can help in any small way, vote and spread the word. \$20 for Year or \$600 Life which is split between chapter and state.

BENEFITS Your money is used to provide a lobbyist to the state and federal government to watch for our rights and freedom. You get a State *MasterLink* newsletter every 2 months when we bring back from State meeting or read it online. The chapter newsletter is available online at palmbeach.abateflorida.com so is in color and with active Internet links. We print black and white copies for the general public to be informed available at various establishments, chapter meetings, and our table at events. Members get free classified and reduced ad rates.

INSURANCE As an active member in good standing you have a \$4,000 **Accidental Death and Dismemberment** policy from American Income Life. You will get a card in the mail from state office to register your beneficiary for ADD insurance. Do NOT mail it, just be sure your family knows about the policy. If you send it in and they try to meet to sell you more so only if you are interested in more insurance. If they bother you contact our State Office to have it stopped. You can mail to the office as Registered letter to have it done when you family notifies. Be sure to renew in time so are always covered! It does not have to be a motorcycle accident.

MOTORCYCLE INSURANCE ABATE of FL. Inc. Palm Beach Chapter members can get an insurance discount with Leslie Kay Progressive insurance company. Contact them for a quote 1-866-367-1788 www.LeslieKays.com The \$3000 accessory package is normal. The State has arranged with Coastal Insurance Company to offer ABATE members up to 10% discount and \$3000 parts and accessories coverage. They are at 190 Hwy A1A Suite, Satellite Beach FL 32937. Agent Doug Guido's phone is 888-596-2453. So these are two more options to compare with your company

PRIVACY Your email, address and phone are never given out to anyone except State and Chapter executive members. We have stopped listing the expiring members in newsletter, you do get letters letting you know. No full names will appear in newsletter nor website without your permission.

EMAILINGS If we have your email address it will be added to a mass mailing which you can opt to be removed at end of email. Usually only do twice a month to let you know our Newsletter is online and remind you of chapter meetings. Local events are included and sometimes urgent matters may be included. No one will see your email

PHONE TEXT WE have another way to communicate with members. Your phone number may be added to our President's text alert system

To change or add the chapter email is palmbeach.abateflorida@gmail.com Our website is palmbeach.abateflorida.com
We have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AbatePalmBeachChapter>

NOTE NEW MAIL

ABATE - Palm Beach Chapter
P.O. Box 1256
Loxahatchee, FL 33470

Another benefit of chapter membership in ABATE of FL Palm Beach is having a free business card in newsletter and free newsletter classified for items to sell or acquire. Support your brothers and sisters when possible, Besides a \$4,000 ADD insurance policy, discount Leslie Kay insurance, we are looking into other benefits for members. We are always in need of more paid advertisers so find any business to benefit from our low rates and support our newsletter and chapter.

A.D.D. INSURANCE POLICY UPDATE

We all realize the \$4,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance policy is one of the best benefits of being an ABATE member. That is one reason to keep your membership up to date. You MUST name someone to get the money in case of death to prevent taxes and being in probate court. So when you receive the yellow card mailed from our state office, you can complete it and mail to insurance company. Most likely an agent will contact you even if you said not to. If they do be, SURE to get their name and number upfront. They do NOT need to visit you even to deliver the certificate. If they insist or get push, contact ABATE of FL. main office and report it but you MUST have the agents' name and number for action to be taken. Otherwise you may just return the completed yellow card to ABATE to have on file. Then be sure your survivors know to contact ABATE for the benefits.

STATE OFFICE: ABATE OF Florida, Inc. PO Box 2520, Deland, FL 32721-2520
Phone: (386) 943-9610 Fax: same Email: flabate@bellsouth.net



ABATE OF FLORIDA INC. PALM BEACH CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Membership Dues: \$20 for 1 year or \$600 for Life Membership per person

Fill out form, print, sign attach your check or money order and mail to:

ABATE — Palm Beach Chapter

P.O. Box 1256

Loxahatchee, FL 33470

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY Will Palm Beach Chapter be your HOME voting Chapter _____
NEW Member: Year ___ or Life ___ Renew: ___ Transfer: ___ Address Change: ___

First : _____ Last : _____ Road : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip (full): _____ - _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Text notification Yes No

Email for News Alerts _____

MC/Club/Org

Registered Voter? Yes No State House: ___ State Senate: ___ US Dist: ___

How can you best help ABATE? Time, Labor, Money, Other _____

SIGNATURE _____

State newsletter the *MasterLink* every other month online and our Chapter newsletter *The Chrome Chronicles* is online at start of month in color with active Links. If you do not have Internet printed copies can be gotten at the meeting or various locations.

MEMBERSHIPS FEE \$ _____

Large Chapter Patch 10" by 10.5" \$35 each # ___ Total \$ _____

Small Chapter Patch 5" by 5.5" \$10 each # ___ Total \$ _____

Date: _____ Grand Total membership, patches, postage fee Paid \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP CARD / PATCHES CAN BE GOTTEN AT CHAPTER MEETING (on the third Sunday of Month) OR MAILED WITHIN 30 DAYS . LIFE CARD MAY TAKE LONGER AS PICKED UP AT STATE MEETINGS EVERY OTHER MONTH



Help Us Escort The Traveling Vietnam Wall to Vero Beach January 25, 2017!



We invite your motorcycle club to join others as we share our respect and our passion for freedom while escorting the Traveling Vietnam Wall, "The Wall That Heals" coming down from Washington D.C. The wall will be on display at the Vero Beach Military History Expo located at the Indian River County Fairgrounds! www.MilitaryHistoryExpo.com

The wall will be on display from Jan 25 to Jan 29, 2017. The main event is the Vero Beach Military History Expo Sat & Sun with the wall on display. Each rider will get 2 FREE tickets to the Military History Expo Sat and Sun Jan 28-29! This also gives you access to the BIG indoor gun show.



To Join The Escort With Your
Motorcycle Club Please Contact:

Harry Lux

US MILITARY VETS

MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Treasure Coast Chapter

561-801-0481

Hazsafe@comcast.net

Next Palm Beach Chapter Meeting VFW POST 4143 3rd Sunday Jan. 15 2017 11:30 am

Directions: 2404 Broadway (US1), Riviera Beach - Exit I-95 at Blue Heron Blvd, go east to Broadway (US1) turn south and is 1 block on east side. **Bike Parking is on south side of building.**

Come early, enjoy a good breakfast deal and socialize with other members.

GOALS & PURPOSES OF ABATE

- To print a newsletter to keep all bikers informed with regard to legislative actions and events around the state and throughout the country.
- To become a powerful and viable political force in legislative matters concerning all motorcyclists rights.
- To provide a lobbyist to represent ABATE of Florida, Inc. on the state and national level.
- To promote voter registration and motivate members to write their legislators.
- To promote safe riding habits without infringing on individual rights.
- To educate the public about motorcycle awareness.