

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. PALM BEACH CHAPTER



THE **Chrome Chronicles**



ISSUE 148 2017-12 PALMBEACH.ABATEFLORIDA.COM Dec. 2017



**A MERICAN
B IKERS
A IMING
T OWARD
E DUCATION**

**NEXT CHAPTER
MEETING
11:30 AM
Third Sunday
Dec. 19**

**CHECK TWICE
FOR MOTORCYCLES**

**LET THOSE
WHO RIDE
DECIDE!**

**ABATE of Florida, Inc.
PALM BEACH CHAPTER
DECEMBER 10, 2017 1PM-5PM
ANNUAL FREEDOM RIGHTS PARTY**

**RENEGADES
COUNTRY BAR AND GRILL**

600 Village Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL. 33409

VENDORS - 50/50 - DOOR PRIZES
\$3.00 per person / \$5.00 per couple

Proceeds support our continued legislative efforts in Tallahassee

**LIVE MUSIC
WITH
STATIC**

ABATE PALM BEACH CHAPTER



MEMBERSHIP AND SAFETY BOOTH

Everyone is invited to join the fun, **RAIN or SHINE**

Contact for more information:
Debbie Hamby - (561) 847-5331
[HTTP://PALMBEACH.ABATEFLORIDA.COM](http://PALMBEACH.ABATEFLORIDA.COM)

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. DOES NOT CONDONE DRINKING AND RIDING.
DONATIONS TO ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES.
A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION
OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT,
APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. WWW.800HELPLFLA.COM 1-800-435-7352

2016-2017 Board of Directors & Trustees

PRESIDENT	Ken "Snooze" Gerecke	561-389-6546
VICE PRESIDENT	John "LB" Valiquette	561-907-0043
SECRETARY	Ed "Nighthawk" Lattari	561-309-5412
TREASURER	Melissa Limbaugh	561-312-4080
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Tony Mariani	561-319-8095
MEMBERSHIP TRUSTEE	Melissa Limbaugh	561-312-4080
SAFETY DIRECTOR	Dan "Slo Motion" Henderson	561-702-9929
LEGISLATIVE	Dan "Slo Motion" Henderson	561-702-9929
STATE DELEGATE	Dan "Slo Motion" Henderson	561-702-9929
STATE DELEGATE	Bill "Hamish" Black	561-714-5264
NEWSLETTER/WEBMASTER	Dan "Slo Mo" Henderson	561-702-9929
PR/COMM TRUSTEE	Dan "Slo Mo" Henderson	561-702-9929
PRODUCTS TRUSTEE	open	

Our 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

Mailing Address HAS CHANGED **BACK**

ABATE - Palm Beach Chapter

P.O. Box 1256

Loxahatchee, FL 33470

Our website is palmbeach.abateflorida.com

DISCLAIMER

This official publication of ABATE of Florida, Inc., Palm Beach Chapter accepts no responsibility for the comments, advertisers or opinions contained in this publication. The submission deadline for all material for publication is after the third weekend of month or earlier for on time completion.

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

This newsletter is the monthly publication of ABATE of Florida, Inc. Palm Beach Chapter published monthly 12 times a year
ABATE of Florida Inc
Palm Beach Chapter
P.O. Box 1256
Loxahatchee, FL 33470

ABATE of Florida, Inc. does not condone drinking and driving

DONATIONS TO ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES

A copy of the Official Registration and Financial Information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the State. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, nor recommendation by the State.

WWW.800.HELPFLA.COM 1-800-435-7352



President's Message

Ken "Snooze" Gerecke

December is here already wow! This year really flew by didn't it? First I would like to clear up any confusion about our Freedom Rights rally. In last month's newsletter I told you it would be at Johnny Q's, well there has been a change of plan since then. This year's ABATE Freedom Rights Rally will be at Renegades just as it has been in the past. Like always, our event will follow the West Palm Beach Toy Run. So if you are planning on going on the toy run or your just out riding stop by and have some fun with your ABATE brothers and sisters at Renegades Bar and Grill (see cover) on December 10th from 1-5 pm. In case anyone is thinking well I thought Renegades was closed, it is not closed and back open for business. So please come out and have a good time with us. For your entertainment the Static band will be rocking the house again so tell all your friends and relatives to come out and have some fun!!

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

On another note we need all the new members we can get! So if you are not a member of ABATE Palm Beach County become one! Our meetings are open to anyone 18 years of age or older, no matter what type of motorcycle you ride or even if you ride or not. With your membership you get a \$4000 Accidental Insurance Policy and free business card ad. We welcome all riders, sport riders, club members, Independents - all motorcyclists are welcome to join us. Our next chapter meeting will be on December 17th at the VFW post 4143 in Riviera Beach one block south of Blue Heron Blvd. on Broadway.

RIDE SAFE RIDE SMART!!

SNOOZE



Find us on
Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/AbatePalmBeachChapter>

UPCOMING Event Schedule

Friday Dec. 1 Soldiers for Jesus Open House / Ink Link Bike Night Bike Nights

Saturday Dec. 2 Palm Bch HD Photos with Santa

Saturday Dec. 2 Ride fro VFW 4143 Riviera Beach to Juno for filming promo for Vet fishing event

Monday Dec. 4 Mob of Brothers MC Open House 2590 Commerce Park Dr. Unit F5 Boynton

Tuesday Dec. 5 UMCPBC Christmas Party

Wednesday Dec 6 Bike Night at Island Jack's

Thursday Dec. 7 Black Pistons Open House

Saturday Dec. 9 Palm Bch HD Grill out and Hang out

Saturday Dec. 9 Rock & Ride escorted ride to Battle of the Bands Dirty Martini Palm Bch Gardens

Sunday Dec. 10 Toys in the Sun Run, Bill's Bikes Toy Run and **ABATE Palm Beach Event**

Tuesday Dec. 12 Lone Legion Brotherhood MC Open House 2590 Commerce Park Dr. Unit F5 Boynton

Wednesday Dec 13 Bike Night at Island Jack's

Thursday Dec. 14 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night

Friday Dec. 15 AOA WPB MC Open House

Saturday Dec. 16 Wreaths Across America / Hermandad MC Memorial Toy Run

Sunday Dec. 17 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 Dec. 17 Wings of Gold MC Miami Toy Run

Wednesday Dec. 20 States MC Lake Worth Open House 3570 Boutwell Rd. Lake Worth

Wednesday Dec 6 Bike Night at Island Jack's

Thursday Dec. 28 Turboz Custom Cycles Bike Night 7-10 PM Ralph's Stand Up Bar Jupiter

Thursday Dec. 28 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night

Friday Dec. 29 AOA WPB MC Open House

REMINDER: EVERY

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

Saturday Night is FLY-IN WHEELS MC OPEN HOUSE

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

ABATE of Florida, Inc.
PALM BEACH CHAPTER
DECEMBER 10, 2017 1PM-5PM
ANNUAL FREEDOM RIGHTS PARTY

RENEGADES
COUNTRY BAR AND GRILL

600 Village Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL. 33409

VENDORS - 50/50 - DOOR PRIZES

\$3.00 per person / \$5.00 per couple

Proceeds support our continued legislative efforts in Tallahassee

LIVE MUSIC
WITH STATIC

ABATE PALM BEACH CHAPTER



MEMBERSHIP AND SAFETY BOOTH

Everyone is invited to join the fun, RAIN or SHINE

Contact for more information:

Debbie Hamby - (561) 847-5331

[HTTP://PALMBEACH.ABATEFLORIDA.COM](http://PALMBEACH.ABATEFLORIDA.COM)

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. DOES NOT CONDONE DRINKING AND RIDING.

DONATIONS TO ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. WWW.800HELPPFLA.COM 1-800-435-7352

Advertisers Online

Tell them you saw ad in
Palm Beach ABATE
Newsletter!

We need help in getting more
advertisers to support the
production of our newsletter.
Our rates are great so spread
the word so can continue to
expand distribution to the
general public and riders

Printed copies can be picked up
at meeting and events table

Free Monthly business card ad
for a member Send in scan of
card or better, bring to Chapter
meeting

We Need more advertisers
to be able to print more
copies

Please Pay for your
Event to be Included

ABATE of Florida, Inc.

Palm Beach Chapter Newsletter Advertising

Newsletter is accessible on palmbeach.abateflorida.com in FULL color
with active links including those of advertisers. It is also printed in
black & white in an 8 by 11 format for distribution at various places.

Newsletter Ad Rates 6.5% sales Tax included

SIZE	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	YEAR
BUSINESS CARD	\$ 12.72	\$ 26.71	\$ 49.61	\$ 89.29
QUARTER PAGE	\$ 25.44	\$ 50.88	\$ 92.86	\$ 167.14
HALF PAGE	\$ 38.16	\$ 78.86	\$ 146.28	\$ 263.33
FULL PAGE	\$ 50.88	\$ 125.93	\$ 232.78	\$ 418.99

Contact: _____ DATE _____

Size and Duration of AD: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

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. And for us with older eyes, can be zoomed in without magnifying glasses. We do need our advertisers, donations and more members 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 and cost to get mailings done.

Brit Bike Mike sent in this one from the MRF

RIDING FREE FROM DC:

Your Weekly Biker Bulletin from Inside the Beltway

Your Motorcycle Riders Foundation team in Washington, D.C. is pleased to provide our members with the latest information and updates on issues that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. Count on your MRF to keep you informed about a range of matters that are critical to the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle. Published weekly when the U.S. Congress is in session.

NEWS FROM THE HILL – One Week & Several Pissing Matches Later....

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee okayed Paul Trombino's nomination to be top dog at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). He is going to be an important one for riders... the FHWA oversees policies that affect roadway design and other safety issues that impact our nation's highways. His nomination vote was supposed to take place last week...but then a fight ensued between several Republican Senators and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt over the Renewable Fuel Standard... more on that in the section below.

Our anti-profiling legislation added another sponsor this week – Rep. John Katko from New York. I sat down with Rep. Katko's Legislative Director recently. He reached out to me because the Congressman just got his endorsement and purchased a Road King. That's right – we've added another Member of Congress to our "Reps Who Ride" List. The staffer told me that his boss is "ALL IN" when it comes to rider issues. And as an added bonus – he sits on the powerful Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

EXECUTIVE & REGULATORY UPDATES – RFS Concessions to the Corn States

Last week I reported that several Senators from the nation's corn belt threatened EPA Head Scott Pruitt over what they felt was a lack of support (FYI – threatening someone in Washington is verrrrrry different then threatening someone in the biker world – just so ya know). And in short order, Pruitt made some concessions, to the frustration of many including yours truly. After the shakedown (again a "Washington" shakedown...not a biker shakedown) Pruitt released a letter outlining a number steps the EPA intends to take on the Renewable Fuel Standard. This includes a commitment to finalize ethanol volumes by Nov 30 at levels equal to or greater than those in the proposed rule that was recently issued AND directed EPA staff to "actively explore" whether the agency has legal authority to grant a waiver allowing year-round sale of gasoline with 15 percent ethanol. About five seconds later, President Trump's nominees to the EPA were SHOCKINGLY (not really) given the 'okay' from a Senate Committee.

In other news, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao confirmed what I wrote about last week – that an attempt to overhaul the tax code is taking priority over a major infrastructure package. She spoke at an event put on by the American Trucking Association earlier this week and said, "Infrastructure will not be taken up until tax reform has been completed." So, there you have it. Hope you took my advice and didn't hold your breath.

STATE NEWS – Fraudulent Documents & Motorcycle Endorsements in Indiana???

From ABATE of Indiana and MRF's own Jay Jackson:

It has come to our attention that some Indiana residents have been caught up in a scam regarding documents necessary to obtain a motorcycle endorsement. ABATE of Indiana represents all Hoosier motorcyclists and is very concerned anytime one of us is harmed.

Although we have not been given details from the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), it appears that someone has made copies of the state form used to issue a waiver for skills test and forged the

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 NOR 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, it is up to you to decide.

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 from 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 Membership Card, Event Discounts and Updates, Voting Privileges, Free Newsletter 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.

MRF continued

signature of a former ABATE instructor. This unlawful act of greed casts an ugly and undeserved shadow on the instructor's reputation, as well as that of ABATE of Indiana.

We have heard a number of stories from people that have been caught up in this situation. One admitted to giving "a guy in the bar \$100" in exchange for the paper. Others advise that they attended a makeshift course and spent "a couple hours riding around cones" before receiving the document. Some claim to have paid as much as \$350 for this "class".

At some point, the BMV suspected something (perhaps a large number of waivers with the same instructor, date, etc...) and began to look closer at how some folks acquired their motorcycle endorsement. If the BMV was unable to confirm that the applicant had successfully completed a legitimate rider course, they suspended not only the motorcycle endorsement, but also the operator's license, and in some cases the Commercial Driver's License (CDL), of the individual.

ABATE of Indiana's rider education program began in 1979 and has had a contract with the state to provide courses every year since the inception of the state legislated program (that we lobbied to create in 1986), except 2017. This includes 2015 when we were required to sign a contract to be able to offer a waiver (for skills test) even though we received zero assistance from the state. Our students bore the entire expense in their tuition, and we had to spend about a quarter of a million dollars for motorcycles while the Bureau of Motor Vehicles chose to park hundreds of bikes outside in the snow and let them deteriorate, rather than allow us to use this equipment to train students.

Furthermore, misinformation from the BMV advised riders that the course offered by ABATE of Indiana was not valid for a waiver, when in fact, it was. This issue continued throughout the entire 2015 and 2016 training seasons, despite repeated pledges from the BMV to correct it. In 2017, inaccurate and incomplete information persists, as the BMV advises Hoosiers that "ABATE... (is) not an option".

While the BMV's repeated mis-information to riders is frustrating for us, the reason we provided this brief history is because it is even more frustrating to the motorcyclists of Indiana.

Up until 2015, information regarding rider courses was pretty clear and consistent. Unfortunately, there is currently a great deal of confusion confronting riders and seemingly nowhere to obtain correct, consistent, definitive answers. With 20 or so contractors offering training, and no single source for registration, it is difficult for those persons seeking training to understand what is going on and just what "is an option".

We managed to get along for about 25 years without any sort of fraud, using a card printed on card stock in blue ink, with a watermark. We controlled the distribution of these cards from our office and limited the personnel that had access to them. The BMV introduced a new form just a few years ago that was simply black ink on white paper. We expressed concern regarding the security of this document from the beginning.

It certainly looks like there are some victims here. It sounds like some of these folks truly believed that they were participating in a legitimate training course and have now had their license suspended, significantly impacting their lives and livelihood.

If you have any information related to this situation, please reach out and contact the Indiana State Police, or call the ABATE office if you are more comfortable doing so. We want to get to the bottom of this in hopes that it may assist those that were victimized.

Ride Safe, Ride Free,

Jay Jackson

MRF NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

After a fairly depressing weekly bulletin, I wanted to end on a somewhat positive note?! (see page 10)

As you all know, the Motorcyclist Advisory Council (or MAC) has been a thorn in our side. We're angry that they chose to only have ONE motorcycle association represented (which went to the AMA) and we are frustrated that the Council is instead made up of people who are there because of their expertise in things like roadway design, safety and construction. However, one of the people selected may in fact be one of our own. Joel Provenzano, a traffic engineering specialist from Florida, is a long-time rider and I've been told that he AND both of his parents are actively involved with **ABATE of Florida** and the motorcycle ministry. I was put into contact with Joel and he and I are going to meet in-person to discuss the MRF's concerns and priorities regarding the MAC. We've also had some positive interactions with the AMA's Mike Sayre who attended our Meeting of the Minds and who will be Chairing the MAC. With any luck, we'll make sure our voice is heard...even if its unofficially for now.

MSF Offers eCourse for Basic Training

That is all we need cyber instruction that has produced the present poor automobile drivers. I went to the site and it has form to fill out but little else—come on Motorcycle Safety Foundation to you really believe this will give us safe riders? <https://training.msf-usa.org/res/street/enroll/studententry.aspx?cd=nXsVxpxrEqwv%2fvFPzMYtsw%3d%3d>

Yamaha's new concept motorcycle would let you slalom into the future

And there's a scooter version, too by Sean O'Kane@sokane1 Oct 27, 2017, 4:02pm EDT

Yamaha spent the week at the Tokyo Motor Show airing out a few truly ridiculous reference designs, but none were more outrageous than the Niken three-wheeled motorcycle. Tricycles aren't new, and this isn't even the first leaning trike. But it's the first idea like this to come from a major motorcycle company like Yamaha.

Being a reference design, there aren't really any specs to speak of. Yamaha says that this "Leaning Multi-Wheeler" uses a liquid-cooled 3-cylinder engine and 15-inch wheels, but that's about it. **SOMEWHERE BETWEEN A MOTORCYCLE AND A STATIC TRIKE**



Really, it's all about seeing this thing in action. The video Yamaha released starts off with an actor pretending to ski down a road before doing the same action on the concept bike. (Well, technically, it begins with an actor swinging swords around while tapping touchscreen displays, but I digress.) The implication here is that the dual front wheels (and their discrete tubes and forks) would allow you to slalom down a winding mountain road more confidently and, hopefully, decrease the chance of eating it. Whether or not Yamaha plans to bring the idea to a retailer near you isn't clear; the company is supposed to announce more details about the project at the Milan Motorcycle Show in November. But Yamaha definitely seems to believe in the power of

three wheels, because it announced an electric scooter concept (called "Tritown") that uses the Leaning Multi-Wheel technology at the show as well.

<https://www.theverge.com/2017/10/27/16561720/yamaha-trike-tricycle-niken-tokyo-motor-show>

H.Res.318 - Promoting awareness of motorcycle profiling and encouraging collaboration and communication with the motorcycle community and law enforcement officials to prevent instances of profiling.

115th Congress (2017-2018) | *No Florida Cosponsors*

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-resolution/318/cosponsors?r=1>

Promoting awareness of motorcycle profiling and encouraging collaboration and communication with the motorcycle community and law enforcement officials to prevent instances of profiling.

Whereas motorcycle ridership has continued to increase over time with registrations growing from 3,826,373 in 1997 to 8,600,936 in 2015;

Whereas, as of August 2016, the ongoing National Motorcycle Profiling Survey 2016, conducted by the Motorcycle Profiling Project, found that approximately 1/2 of the motorcyclists surveyed felt that they had been profiled by law enforcement at least once;

Whereas motorcycle profiling means the illegal use of the fact that a person rides a motorcycle or wears motorcycle related apparel as a factor in deciding to stop and question, take enforcement action, arrest, or search a person or vehicle with or without legal basis under the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas complaints surrounding motorcycle profiling have been cited in all 50 States;

Whereas nationwide protests to raise awareness and combat motorcycle profiling have been held in multiple States;

Whereas in 2011, Washington signed into law legislation stating that the criminal justice training commission shall ensure that issues related to motorcycle profiling are addressed in basic law enforcement training and offered to in-service law enforcement officers in conjunction with existing training regarding profiling;

Whereas reported incidents of motorcycle profiling have dropped approximately 90 percent in the State of Washington since the 2011 legislation was signed into law; and

Whereas in the spring of 2016, Maryland became the second State to pass a law addressing the issue of motorcycle profiling: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

- (1) promotes increased public awareness on the issue of motorcycle profiling;
- (2) encourages collaboration and communication with the motorcycle community and law enforcement to engage in efforts to end motorcycle profiling; and
- (3) urges State law enforcement officials to include statements condemning motorcycle profiling in written policies and training materials.

Here's What Motorcyclists Wish Drivers Did Better

Jason Channell

I never intended to become “the motorcycle guy” at the office and amongst my friends. But when you quit cars to become a bike-only person, you tend to stand out. And notice things.

When you don't own a car and ride a motorbike everywhere, it's inevitable. As someone who rides a motorcycle daily, I see a lot of things on the road that makes me take the name of Yeezus in vain. As a biker to drivers, I'd like to share some insights that might make all of our lives on the road a little easier.

No Crazy Ivans Remember the movie “Hunt for Red October” that features Sean Connery doing a terrible Russian accent? One of the great things to enter our vernacular from the flick is pulling a “Crazy Ivan.” If you're driving a massive nuclear missile submarine or similarly-sized Tahoe, this involves looking up from texting your BFF about the location of your next Yoga class, and realizing the “OMG! I'm about to miss my exit! Evasive maneuvers across five lanes!”

Often in the hurry to not miss the exit, and quickly move over several lanes, people don't check their blind spot. It's really easy to miss a motorcycle in this situation, and have to tell the gendarmes “I'm so sorry, I didn't see the motorcycle.” The UK even has an acronym for it - SMIDSY: Sorry mate, I didn't see you. A car driver gets a citation and we get a bad version of a slip and slide, and possibly a helicopter ride. Not cool.

Give Us Space Cars will often follow roughly 2.3 millimeters off the rear tire of a motorbike, possibly thinking that they are “drafting” and the highway is the banked tri-oval at Daytona. Unless your name is Ricky Bobby, and you're [on invisible fire](#), please don't do this.

Also not acceptable, is sharing a lane with a bike. Motorcycles don't take up a full lane and are entitled to use the whole lane, just like you are. A smart rider will often switch positions within a lane depending on road conditions and what's going on around them. If a bike is staying to the left side of a lane, this is not an invitation to come snuggle up the right side of the lane. This is not appreciated and may cause general surprise and possibly some creative swearing.

Put Your Phone Down There's not much to be said here that hasn't already been said, so I will be brief. Many places make texting and driving against the law, and I wish it actually were enforced. Distracted driving causes a lot of rear-end accidents. If your luxu land-barge taps the rear of a car, it's usually not a big deal, unless there are high speeds involved.

The difference is this: if you hit a car, you may have to fix the bumper and hood. If you hit a bike, the bike is often totaled, and the rider could be seriously injured. This is a bad deal for the motorcyclist when all they were doing is riding their BMW GS around the corner to Starbucks while pretending to be Charlie and Ewan taking the Long Way 'Round.

Don't Break The Formation When a group of bikes riders together, they spread out in what's commonly known as a staggered formation. This alternates bikes in a lane and mitigates the risk of accidents. Fairly often, merging cars will break into the formation. This is considered rude at best, and dangerous at worst. How do I know this, you ask?

In a combination of a Crazy Ivan and a break the formation, a total jackwagon about to miss his I35 on-ramp wedged between my friend Jose's Triumph Tiger and my Sprint ST, collecting me in the process. The result? I spent a week in the hospital in Austin with several broken ribs. The damage to his Benz? Minimal.

Allow Us To Lanesplit or Filter Filtering or "lane-splitting" on a motorbike is common practice in much of the world, and California in the U.S. Despite roughly 20 years of attempts at legislation, the AMA hasn't been able to buy enough votes from Congress to get it legalized.

Filtering in traffic jams helps keep us from being rear-ended by distracted drivers, keeps our bikes from overheating, and does help us get to our destinations quicker. Cars get A/C and airbags, we get filtering. Win-win.

Riding in Texas where filtering is not specifically allowed is a bit of admitted civil disobedience. Several folks I ride with practice it under the proper "rules." Recently, while stuck on a ramp entering I 35, I had a guy in an F-150 ask me why I wasn't lane-splitting. I replied that there was a merge just ahead and I had nowhere to go, even if I did start filtering. That man is doing the Lord's work.

Don't Camp Out In The Left Lane Americans have terrible lane discipline. I've come to find people first choose the lane they want to be in, then they choose how fast they want to go. Not to point fingers, but, Lexus SUVs and Priiii tend to be prime offenders where I ride. Far too many folks seem to be card-carrying members of the Anti-Destination League. On a bike, this isn't as much of a problem, due to the sheer speed of motorbikes. You can do things in traffic you just can't in a car. This in no way excuses parking in the left lane, while a growing mob of cars behind you start getting out their torches and pitchforks.

Odds are, the motorbike in the next lane over is just trying to get to where they're going, the same as you. Please play nice and don't play bumper...erm..cars with motorcycles.

Most bikers are trained to "ride like they're invisible", but it'd be a whole lot safer for all of us out there if more people in cars were willing to dedicate just a few extra brain cells to watching out for two-wheelers.

Keep your eyes on the road and your hands upon the wheel, and we'll all have a much happier time on the highway.

<https://jalopnik.com/heres-what-motorcyclists-wish-drivers-did-better-1819741213>

DELEGATE REPORT

All gun rifle raffle tickets MUST be turned in at this meeting. All money, tickets sold or unsold, contact treasurer or one of the Delegates so can turn in. The Drawing will be done at the State Meeting

ABATE of Florida, Inc. | Treasure Coast Chapter

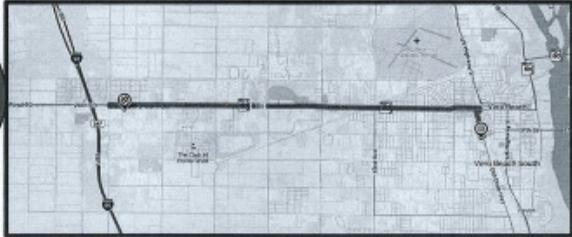


ABATE State Meeting

Saturday, December 9, 2017

<p>ACCOMMODATIONS</p> <p>Vero Beach Inn & Suites 8797 20th St Vero Beach, FL 32966 772-567-8321 Cut-off date November 27</p>	<p>MEETING LOCATION</p> <p>American Legion Post 39 1535 Old Dixie Hwy Vero Beach, FL 32960 12 noon State Board Meeting 2:00pm Delegates meeting</p>
--	--

Contact:
Steve Kliemisch
ABATE TC Prez.
772-539-2814



Abate of Florida, Inc. does not condone drinking and riding. Donations to ABATE of Florida, Inc. are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll free within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. www.800HELPFLA.com 1-800-435-7352

STATE MEETINGS

Host Chapter & Location

December 9, 2017
Treasure Coast
Feb. 11 Tallahassee 12th
Ride to Capital
April 14 Peace River
June 9 Lighthouse
July 14-15 Leadership
Seminars
August 11 N. Orlando
Oct. 13 Gulf Coast
Dec.8 Gator Ally



ABATE of FL Inc. Palm Beach Chapter GBNF

Ed "Gunner" Bassett
Frank "Pipes" Cook
Robert "Torch" Lyle
Nirka Crespo
Phil Moore
Michael Steffy
Tom "Ramblin' Man"
Botticelli
Karen Watkins



News Release Friday, November 17, 2017

Motorcycle Safety

NA17193im

Improving Motorcycle Safety Careless motorists as well as riders get special scrutiny

On Sunday, November 19, 2017, the Los Angeles Police Department will be conducting a specialized Motorcycle Safety Enforcement Operation with the goal of lowering motorcycle related deaths and injuries in the Foothill Area from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Additional officers will be patrolling areas frequented by motorcyclists and where motorcycle traffic collisions occur. Officers will be looking for violations committed by drivers and motorcycle riders alike that attribute to motorcycle crashes.

Motorcycle fatalities increased significantly in California by over 28 percent from a decade low of 352 in 2010. In 2013, 453 motorcyclists lost their lives, which was a 5-year high. Over the course of the past five years, motorcycle involved collisions have resulted in 150 fatalities and 3,615 injuries in the City of Los Angeles. California traffic collision data revealed that the primary causes of motorcycle-involved traffic collisions include speeding, unsafe turning and impairment due to alcohol and other drugs by both riders and drivers. The goals of these operations are designed to increase traffic safety and stop the increase in motorcycle deaths.

Motorcyclists are encouraged to utilize safe riding techniques while operating a motorcycle:

- Use your lane position to increase visibility
- Change lanes only when there is ample room
- Match your speed to surrounding traffic
- Always wear a DOT compliant helmet and brightly colored, protective clothing
- Ride with lights on during daylight hours.

Riders are strongly encouraged to attend training offered through the California Motorcyclist Safety Program. Information and training locations are available at <http://www.californiamotorcyclist.com/> or 1-877 RIDE 411 (1-877-743-3411).

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The message to all drivers and motorcyclists is to share the responsibility and do your part by safely "sharing the road."

http://www.lapdonline.org/home/news_view/63151

Events, Bike Nights, Photos, Biker Sites
South Florida and Beyond

BIKERONLINEGUIDE.COM

Everything Internet for Bikers

Dan Henderson Cell 561-702-9929
Email: BikerOnlineGuide@gmail.com

WEEKLY EVENTS

One Mon Mob of Brothers MC Open House @ Lone legion
Mon Dinner 6:30 States MC Pompano Clubhouse

Once a Month Tues Lone Legion MC Brotherhood Open House

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 Tilted Kilt Bike Night Boca

Thurs Once a month UBCPBC Council Ride Night

Thurs Once a month Black Pistons MC WPB Open House

?2nd Thurs Vintage Motorcycle Night Double Roads Tavern Jupiter

3rd Thurs Treasure Coast Harley Bike Night

4th Thurs Palm Beach Harley Davidson Bike Night 5-9 PM

Last Thurs Turboz/Ralph's Bike Night Jupiter

Fri Twice a Month AOA MC WPB Open Houses

1st Fri Soldiers for Jesus Open House

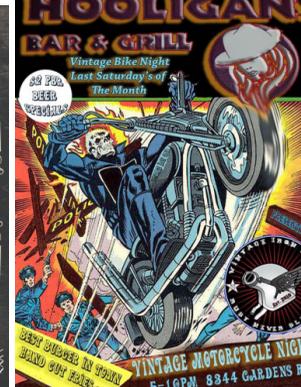
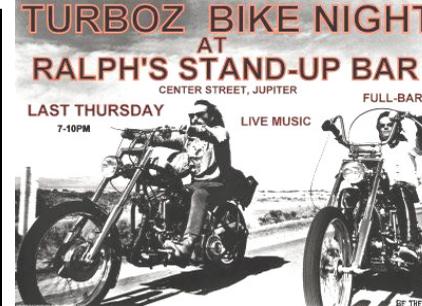
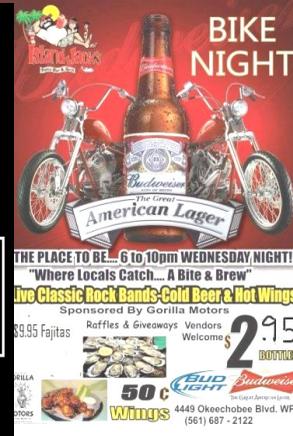
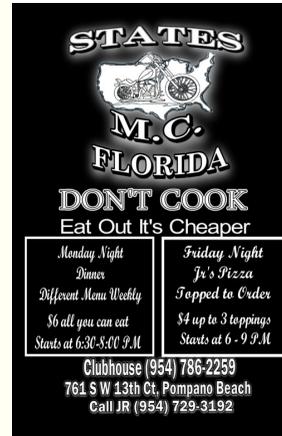
1st Fri Ink Link Bike Night

1st Fri Tom Sawyers Bike Show

1st Fri Enforcers MC Party

Sat Fly-In Wheels MC open house

3rd Sunday ABATE FL Palm Beach Chapter Meeting 11:30
VFW Riviera Beach



MANDATORY ANNUAL CLUB EVENTS ARE LISTED IN BOLD

SFPC FOR CHANGES EMAIL:
INDIAN (WOM MC)
Indianwommc@yahoo.com
SFPD CHAIRMAN

SOUTH FLORIDA PRESIDENTS COUNCIL
of Motorcycle Clubs and Organizations

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

UBCPBC CALENDAR 2017

DECEMBER

5th USCPBS Christmas Party

ABATE of FL Inc. PALM BEACH CHAPTER MEETINGS

11:30 AM V.F.W. Post 4143 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. At the flag

- 3rd Sun. Dec. 17
- 3rd Sun. Jan. 21
- 3rd Sun. Feb. 18
- 3rd Sun. March 18
- 3rd Sun. April 15

ABATE of Florida, Inc.
PALM BEACH CHAPTER
DECEMBER 10, 2017 1PM-5PM
ANNUAL FREEDOM RIGHTS PARTY

RENEGADES
COUNTRY BAR AND GRILL

600 Village Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL. 33409

VENDORS - 50/50 - DOOR PRIZES

\$3.00 per person / \$5.00 per couple

Proceeds support our continued legislative efforts in Tallahassee

LIVE MUSIC
WITH STATIC

ABATE PALM BEACH CHAPTER



MEMBERSHIP AND SAFETY BOOTH

Everyone is invited to join the fun, RAIN or SHINE

Contact for more information:

Debbie Hamby - (561) 847-5331

HTTP://PALMBEACH.ABATEFLORIDA.COM

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. DOES NOT CONDONE DRINKING AND RIDING.
DONATIONS TO ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES.
A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION
OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT,
APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. WWW.800HELPLFLA.COM 1-800-435-7352

Photos With Santa & The Naughty Elves

Saturday, December 2, 2017 11AM-3PM Palm Beach Harley-Davidson



Every Saturday Thru December 18th! Free Gift Wrapping Too!



Grill Out 'N' Hang Out

Saturday, December 9, 2017 11AM-3PM Palm Beach Harley-Davidson



FREE BBQ & FREE BEER

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Ink Link Bike Night Soldiers for Jesus MC Open House	2 Palm Beach Harley Photos with Santa
3	4 Mob of Brothers Open House	5 UBCPBC Christmas Party	6 Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Tilted Kilt Bike Nights	7 Black Pistons Open House	8 Palm Beach Harley Ride Out	9 ABATE FL State Meeting Palm Beach Harley Grill out
10 Toy Runs ABATE PB Event	11	12 Lone Legion MC Open House	13 Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Tilted Kilt Bike Nights	14 Palm Beach Harley Jingle Bell Rock Bike Night	15 AOA WPB MC Open House	16 Wreaths Across America
17 Palm Bch ABATE Chapter Meeting	18	19	20 States LW Open House Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Tilted Kilt Bike Nights	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Tilted Kilt Bike Nights	28 Palm Beach Harley Rockn New years or Ralphs/ Turbo Bike	29 AOA WPB MC Open House	30 Vintage Iron Bike Night
31						

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Mob of Brothers Open House	2	3 Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Tilted Kilt Bike Nights	4 Black Pistons Open House	5 Ink Link Bike Night Soldiers for Jesus MC Open House	6
7	8	9 Lone Legion MC Open House	10 Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Tilted Kilt Bike Nights	11	12 AOA WPB MC Open House	13
14	15	16	17 States LW Open House Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Tilted Kilt Bike Nights	18	19	20
21 Palm Bch ABATE Chapter Meeting	22	23	24 Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Tilted Kilt Bike Nights	25 Ralphs / Turbo Bike Night	26 AOA WPB MC Open House	27 Dania Bch Vintage Bike Show Vintage Iron Bike Night
28	29	30	31 Island Jack's, Chit Chat's, Tilted Kilt Bike Nights			

.....
 : 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.
 : In these sidebars Underlined District # , names link in the online version.
 :

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

DAN "SLOW-MOTION" HENDERSON



PALM BEACH Co. 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

The big news story of this cycle is the resignation of Palm Beach County Di31 Senator Jeff Clemens (D) due to his affair with a lobbyist. I wish this cartoon wasn't copyrighted as so fitting for Democrats <http://www.gocomics.com/pricklycity/2017/10/26>. While I thought he understood our concerns being an avid bicyclist, he fought for mandatory helmets. There will be a special election Jan. 30 and the regular election on April 10. The two Democratic going for his seat are Irv Slossberg former congressman who might have won last time if hadn't entered so late and D90 Rep Lori Berman. Both should be more on our side in issues. Read more in the following ,leading with the first report on Clemons below.

TOP SENATE DEMOCRAT RESIGNS AFTER AFFAIR DISCLOSED

By Dara Kam News Service of Florida
THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, Oct. 27, 2017..... State Sen. Jeff Clemens, poised to take over as leader of the Senate Democratic caucus, abruptly resigned from his legislative seat Friday after admitting he had an affair with a lobbyist. Politico Florida on Friday morning reported the affair between Clemens, a Lake Worth Democrat, and Devon West, a Broward County lobbyist. By the end of the day, Clemens had stepped down. "Please consider this email as my resignation from the Florida Senate," Clemens wrote in a message to Senate President Joe Negron, R-Stuart, at 5:55 p.m. Friday. About an hour earlier, Clemens issued a

Palm Beach County FL Senators

D25 Joe Negron (R)
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 WP Bch

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

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

statement through a spokesman, apologizing and saying he had “made mistakes” he is ashamed of.

The political consultant and former Lake Worth mayor said he has spent the past six months “focused on becoming a better person.”

“But it is clear to me that task is impossible to finish while in elected office. The process won't allow it, and the people of Florida deserve better. All women deserve respect, and by my actions, I feel I have failed that standard. I have to do better,” said Clemens, who spent two years in the Florida House before being elected to the Senate in 2012.

Clemens, 47, also apologized to his wife, his family, and “everyone that I have treated poorly in the past for putting you through this in such a public way.”

Clemens said he will continue in therapy and “will seek to personally apologize to anyone I have wronged while seeking forgiveness, and will spend my time being a better husband and father.”

Negron issued a statement saying, “It is clear to me Senator Clemens made a decision he feels is best for both his family and his constituents.”

Clemens was expected to formally take over as minority leader after the 2018 elections, and his resignation was the second time this year that a senator has stepped down in disgrace.

This spring, former Sen. Frank Artiles, R-Miami, resigned after a profanity-fueled and racially tinged outburst at a private club near the Capitol.

Ironically, Clemens' cachet as the incoming minority leader was burnished last month when Democrat Annette Taddeo defeated Republican former Rep. Jose Felix Diaz in a heated contest to replace Artiles. Clemens helped lead efforts to elect Taddeo.

News of the Clemens affair --- and the hasty resignation of the future leader --- rocked the Democratic caucus, fresh off the heels of the special-election victory. State Sen. Audrey Gibson said she was “just floored” when she read the account of the affair Friday morning.

“I couldn't believe what I was reading,” Gibson, D-Jacksonville, told The News Service of Florida Friday evening. “It was just the fact that here this thing that happened was now public, blasted all over everywhere at a time when, as a caucus, we are moving in a forward direction.”

Clemens' departure comes as lawmakers prepare for the legislative session, which begins Jan. 9. Committee meetings are already underway. It is unclear how soon his Senate District 31 seat could be filled in a special election, though the Palm Beach County district is a Democratic stronghold.

Senate Democrats will continue to move forward, Gibson predicted.

“And as a matter of fact, the resignation probably helps us put it behind us quicker,” she said.

Senate President-designate Bill Galvano, who would have been Clemens' counterpart after next year's elections, said in a text that he trusts Clemens made the right decision.

“My thoughts are with his family,” Galvano, R-Bradenton, wrote.

Pressure for Clemens to resign, had been building throughout the day among a handful of Senate Democrats, especially among those who feared that worse news was yet to come.

“I think that is what needed to happen,” Sen. Linda Stewart, D-Orlando, said of Clemens' resignation. “As a woman, and representing many women in my district, I think that is the best conclusion to the situation.”

The reaction to an affair between a married legislator and a lobbyist may have been heightened by a series of nationally renowned powerful men, such as film mogul Harvey Weinstein, accused of sexual harassment or worse by dozens of women. The reports about Weinstein sparked a social-media firestorm and resulted in other high-profile celebrities being called out for sexual improprieties.

Even without the national focus on sexual harassment, Clemens' behavior should not be tolerated, Stewart said.

“We're a body of senators that try to have the highest of loyalty and highest ethics. I think this

would just be a bad situation for us to move forward in, if he had not done this (resigned). I think he did the right thing and I appreciate him doing the right thing,” she said in a telephone interview.

It's unclear who will take over for Clemens as the upper chamber's next minority leader.

Democrats were already engaged in a heated contest for who would succeed Clemens in 2020, with Sens. Gary Farmer, of Fort Lauderdale, and **Bobby Powell, of West Palm Beach**, the leading candidates.

Gibson could be in the running to replace Clemens next year, Stewart said.

“I think we might benefit having a woman in charge,” she said.

But Gibson demurred when asked Friday evening.

“As a caucus, we now have to come together and discuss moving forward under new leadership,” she said.

SB 346 Motorcycles & Moped Riders bill was temporarily postponed by the Senate Transportation Committee because the sponsor Sen. Perry was not able to attend the meeting because he was in another committee meeting. It has been slated to be heard at a future Transportation committee meeting.

SB 358 the Bill that wants to rename a portion of highway in Northwest Florida after Sen. Greg Evers was passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee. It will now go to the Rules Committee.

HB 215 Autocycles passed its first committee by a vote of 12-2. It is now in the Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee. This is the bill that is trying to classify the new "autocycles" as motorcycles.

11-12-17 **COMBEE TO LEAVE HOUSE IN LATE NOVEMBER**

Rep. Neil Combee, R-Auburndale, formally gave notice of his resignation to House Speaker Richard Corcoran late Wednesday. Combee, appointed last week by the White House as the federal Farm Service Agency and Rural Development state director, said his resignation will be effective Nov. 24. “Although I am sad to leave, I take satisfaction in the fact that I will continue to serve, albeit in different capacity,” Combee wrote in a letter. The move will keep him in office as lawmakers meet next week for pre-session committee meetings. Combee, first elected to the House in 2012, chairs the Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee. In the letter, Combee, asked Corcoran to retain his staff so they could continue serving House District 39, which includes parts of Polk and Osceola counties. Gov. Rick Scott will have to set the special election dates to fill the seat. Josie Tomkow, a Polk County Republican from a cattle ranching family, has already opened a campaign account to run for the seat. The Ledger newspaper also reported that Polk County Commissioner John Hall plans to run for the seat.

BILL SEEKS TO AUTOMATICALLY LIFT TOLLS DURING EVACUATIONS

Tolls would automatically be lifted for motorists in counties where mandatory evacuations are ordered, under a measure filed this week in the Senate. The proposal (SB 818), filed by Sen. Bobby Powell, D-West Palm Beach, would allow motorists to avoid paying tolls until the evacuation orders end. The proposal follows a similar request by Democrats to the House Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness. In advance of Hurricane Irma, Gov. Rick Scott ordered all tolls lifted on Sept. 5. The storm hit Sept. 10 and Sept. 11, and motorists were able to avoid paying almost all tolls until Sept. 21. The state estimates that the move cost \$3 million a day, or about \$45 million. An estimated 6.5 million people left their homes in advance of Irma.

RING, COMMITTEE PULL IN \$52,000 FOR CABINET RACE

Former Democratic Sen. Jeremy Ring, a candidate for state chief financial officer, raised nearly \$52,000 in October for his campaign and an allied political committee, according to numbers posted on the state Division of Elections website. Ring raised just under \$17,000 for his campaign account and

\$35,000 for the Florida Action Fund committee. Ring is the only Democrat in the 2018 race for the Cabinet seat. Republican CFO Jimmy Patronis jumped into the contest on Nov. 1, but he will not have to release his first campaign-finance report until December because of the date of his entry into the race. Patronis, who was appointed to the state Cabinet in June after former CFO Jeff Atwater stepped down, has a political committee, Treasure Florida, that has been raising money since August. Treasure Florida had brought in \$222,750 as of the end of September. Its October numbers have not been posted on the state website. Hollywood Republican Antwan Iotova also has opened a campaign account to run for CFO but has not reported any contributions.

SCOTT SETS SPECIAL ELECTION FOR BAEZ HOUSE SEAT

A Miami-Dade County House seat left vacant after the resignation of Democrat Daisy Baez likely will not be filled until May. Gov. Rick Scott on Thursday scheduled a Feb. 20 special primary election and a May 1 special general election in House District 114. Scott's office said the dates follow the recommendation of Miami-Dade Supervisor of Elections Christina White. The seat became vacant last week when Baez resigned after agreeing to plead guilty to perjury in an investigation into her legal residency. The seat likely will be vacant for the 2018 legislative session, which starts Jan. 9 and is scheduled to end March 9. Republicans Liz de las Cuevas, Jose Pazos and Andrew Vargas and Democrat Ross Hancock have open campaign accounts to run for the seat, according to the state Division of Elections website.

11-7-17 HOUSE RENEWS FIGHT AGAINST 'SANCTUARY CITIES'

After getting rebuffed the past two years by the Senate, the House is trying again to pass legislation targeting communities that have become known as a "sanctuary cities." The House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday approved a bill (HB 9) that drew heavy opposition from Democrats and immigrant advocates. In part, the bill, sponsored by Rep. Larry Metz, R-Yalaha, would require state and local agencies to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement and would bar "sanctuary" policies. "If we're going to have a robust legal immigration system, we have to enforce the law that provides for that," Metz told the committee. "We can't have a parallel system of illegal immigration that is not enforced because then that will overtake the legal system, and we will have no control over our borders and our security." But critics argued, in part, that the bill would lead to racial profiling by authorities. "Are we going to create a hostile environment with racial profiling against the black and brown people?" asked Rep. John Cortes, D-Kissimmee. Metz said the bill is essentially the same as measures that passed the House in 2016 and 2017 but didn't pass the Senate. The bill appears to be on a fast track in the House for the 2018 legislative session, which starts in January. It was only assigned to the Judiciary Committee, which means it will be ready to go to the full House when the session starts.

GIBSON CHOSEN TO LEAD SENATE DEMOCRATS

Senate Democrats elected Audrey Gibson to replace Jeff Clemens as the next leader of the caucus in a secret ballot Monday evening. Clemens, D-Lake Worth, resigned from his Senate seat on Oct. 27 after admitting he had an extramarital affair with a lobbyist. Gibson, D-Jacksonville, defeated Orlando Democrat Randolph Bracy in Monday night's election. She will take over as the Senate minority leader after the 2018 elections, when Democrats hope to flip several seats in a chamber where Republicans now hold a 24-15 majority. "I look forward to working with caucus members on their priorities and ensuring their voices are heard on legislation impacting all Floridians. I am also excited about bringing in new Democrat senators to the Florida Senate to create a legislative balance in the chamber," Gibson, who was elected to the Senate in 2011 after serving eight years in the House, said in a statement. Clemens' abrupt departure rocked Senate Democrats, who were pumped up after recapturing a formerly Republican-held Miami-Dade County seat in a September special election.

SUPREME COURT ASKED TO DECIDE IF CAR CAN BE `WEAPON'

The Florida Supreme Court could decide whether a car can be considered a weapon in criminal cases. Attorneys have filed a notice asking the Supreme Court to take up the issue in a Duval County manslaughter case stemming from the death of a man who was fatally struck by a car after an altercation at a bar. The 1st District Court of Appeal last month upheld the conviction of the driver of the car, Adam Lloyd Shepard, on a charge of manslaughter with a weapon. Under state law, the use of a weapon bumped up the manslaughter charge from a second-degree felony to a first-degree felony. Shepard challenged the reclassification of the crime to a first-degree felony based on the car being considered a "weapon." While the 1st District Court of Appeal rejected Shepard's argument, it acknowledged that its conclusion differed from a ruling in a case in the 2nd District Court of Appeal. In the notice filed Monday with the Supreme Court, Shepard's attorneys pointed to the conflicting appellate rulings in asking justices to resolve the issue. The Shepard case stemmed from a 2011 incident in which Shepard got into an altercation with another man at a sports bar while watching a basketball game. Shepard was convicted of hitting the man with a car in a parking lot and leaving the scene, the 1st District Court of Appeal ruling said. The appeals court did not name the victim, but Florida Times-Union reports identified him as Spencer Schott, who died of head injuries.

SCOTT PROPOSES \$180 MILLION IN TAX, FEE CUTS

Driver's license fees would be cut and a series of sales-tax "holidays" would be offered as part of nearly \$180 million package proposed Monday by Gov. Rick Scott as part of his final budget recommendations. The proposed fee and tax cuts come as the Legislature faces a tight budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

At a series of campaign-style events across the state Monday, Scott proposed reversing portions of fee increases imposed on motorists in 2009 after the recession hit. He also proposed a 10-day back-to-school sales tax "holiday" on clothes and school supplies and three week-long disaster preparedness tax "holidays" in May, June and July. "Over the past seven years, we have worked relentlessly to turn around Florida's economy, and the results are clear," Scott, who is barred from seeking a third term next year, said in a prepared statement.

With the annual legislative session starting in January, lawmakers face a tight budget. The state was expected to have a modest budget surplus, but costs related to Hurricane Irma have altered those projections. Sen. Bill Galvano, a Bradenton Republican who will take over as Senate president after the 2018 elections, has recently acknowledged that the state could face \$1 billion-plus shortfalls in the coming years. Under the package released Monday, Scott's proposed sales tax "holidays" would account for \$88 million of the tax savings.

The governor's office estimates the motorists' savings at \$91 million during the fiscal year that starts July 1. Under Scott's proposal, renewal fees for regular driver's licenses would go from \$48 to \$20, while fees for first-time licenses would fall from \$48 to \$27. Also, Scott is proposing to reduce a fee on commercial driver's licenses from \$75 to \$67, while providing an 18 percent reduction on traffic-citation fees for motorists who attend a basic driver-improvement school. Lawmakers approved increased fees for motorists as part of a much-wider effort in 2009 to balance the state's budget after the recession slashed revenues.

`PIP' REPEAL SPEEDS TOWARD HOUSE FLOOR

An attempt to end the state's no-fault auto insurance system is on the fast track in the Florida House. As in past years, the legislation, which has been projected to save motorists an average of about \$80 a year, faces opposition from some insurers, business groups and medical providers. Meanwhile, the House and Senate are comparing different models to change the system. The House Commerce Committee voted 18-7 on Tuesday to back a measure (HB 19) by Rep. Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, that would end the no-fault system, which requires motorists to carry personal-injury protection, or PIP, coverage to help pay for

medical care after accidents. Under the bill, motorists would instead be required to carry bodily-injury coverage. The change would fully open drivers at fault in accidents to liability for damages and could shift some costs to health-care premiums. "I understand that it's going to be difficult and that change is hard," Grall said. But she added that "we will have more adequate levels of coverage for the severity of accidents on our roads." Grall, an attorney, did not want to add issues to the bill, such as increasing enforcement of uninsured motorists and making changes in the state's bad-faith laws. Bad-faith lawsuits typically involve allegations of misconduct by insurers that handle claims and can be costly. Grall said a number of interests are trying to make the proposal "more complicated than it needs to be." The Personal Insurance Federation of Florida, the Florida Justice Reform Institute and the Institute for Legal Reform, an offshoot of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, are among those that want a no-fault repeal to also address changes in the bad-faith laws.

HOUSE PLAN WOULD MAKE IT HARDER TO RAISE TAXES

After a brief pep talk from Gov. Rick Scott, House members got moving Tuesday on an election-year proposal that would make it harder for future lawmakers to raise taxes. The Republican-dominated House Ways & Means Committee, voting along party lines, backed the proposal (PCB WMC 18-01), which would ask voters in November 2018 to pass a constitutional amendment that would require approval from two-thirds "supermajorities" of the House and Senate to raise taxes and fees in the future. Currently, tax and fee hikes can be approved by simple majorities of 50 percent plus one. Scott, who is widely expected to run for U.S. Senate in November 2018, made a rare appearance before the House committee to lobby for the measure, along with a nearly \$180 million package of tax and fee cuts he introduced Monday. "I think it (the proposed constitutional amendment) will pass, and I think it will make sure our state continues to be the state that all over our kids and grandkids can get a great education and also get great jobs," Scott told the committee, which didn't ask any questions. If lawmakers go along with the proposal, it would need support from 60 percent of voters during the November 2018 election to pass.

SLOSBERG OPENS ACCOUNT TO RUN FOR CLEMENS SEAT

Setting up a high-profile Democratic primary, former state Rep. Irv Slosberg has opened a campaign account to run for a Palm Beach County Senate seat that became vacant last week with the resignation of Lake Worth Democrat Jeff Clemens. Slosberg opened an account Thursday, joining Rep. Lori Berman, D-Lantana, in the race, according to the state Division of Elections website. Clemens, who defeated Slosberg last year for the District 31 seat, announced his resignation from the Senate last Friday after disclosures about an affair with a lobbyist. Gov. Rick Scott will call a special election to fill the seat but had not announced election dates as of Friday morning.

SCOTT SETS ELECTION DATES FOR CLEMENS SEAT

Gov. Rick Scott on Monday set a Jan. 30 special primary election and an April 10 general election in Senate District 31, which became vacant when Lake Worth Democrat Jeff Clemens resigned after acknowledging he had an affair with a lobbyist. The special election dates in the Democratic-leaning Palm Beach County district could keep the seat vacant throughout the upcoming 60-day legislative session, which begins Jan. 9. The election dates matched a request by Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Susan Bucher, a former Democratic state House member. Rep. Lori Berman, D-Lantana, and former Rep. Irv Slosberg, a Democrat who lost to Clemens in 2016, have opened campaign accounts to run for the seat.

BERMAN TO RUN FOR CLEMENS SENATE SEAT

Rep. Lori Berman, D-Lantana, announced Tuesday she will run for the Florida Senate seat that Democrat Jeff Clemens abruptly left Friday after admitting he had an affair with a lobbyist. In a news release, Berman pointed to the need for "strong female leadership in Tallahassee" as "harassment and discrimi-

nation issues are coming into national focus.” Berman, who has served in the House since 2010 and is the Democratic floor leader, must still wait for Gov. Rick Scott to announce special-election dates. With the 60-day legislative session starting Jan. 9, Clemens' exit could keep the Senate District 31 seat vacant throughout the session. Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Susan Bucher asked the Florida Division of Elections on Monday to set the special primary election on Jan. 30 and the special general election on April 10. The Palm Beach County district leans Democratic. Former Rep. Irv Slosberg, a Democrat who ran unsuccessfully against Clemens last year, has told The Palm Beach Post he intends to run for the open seat.

DEMOCRATS SUE STATE OVER SPECIAL ELECTION DATES

The chairman of the Florida Democratic Party filed a lawsuit Monday asking a judge to force Gov. Rick Scott to set special-election dates in a Palm Beach County Senate district and a Miami-Dade County House district. The lawsuit, filed in Leon County circuit court hours before Scott announced election dates in the Senate district, focuses on seats left vacant during the past two weeks by the departures of former Sen. Jeff Clemens, D-Lake Worth, and former Rep. Daisy Baez, D-Coral Gables. Scott on Monday night announced that he had scheduled a special primary election on Jan. 30 in Senate District 31 and a special general election on April 10. He did not announce election dates in House District 114. Clemens left the Senate seat Oct. 27 after acknowledging an affair with a lobbyist, while Baez resigned from the House seat last week after pleading guilty to perjury in a case related to her legal residency. The lawsuit, which names state Democratic Party Chairman Stephen Bittel and two residents of the districts as plaintiffs, seeks an order that would lead to holding elections in time for the replacements in Senate District 31 and House District 114 to take part in the 2018 legislative session. The session starts Jan. 9. The lawsuit alleges that the “inherent political rights of the electors of Senate District 31 and House District 114 ... are being abridged by defendant Rick Scott's failure to fix the dates of a special primary election and a special election to fill these legislative vacancies to assure representation of the residents of Senate District 31 and House District 114 in the 2018 legislative session.” The dates Scott announced for the Senate special election followed a recommendation from Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Susan Bucher, a former Democratic state House member.

GOP CANDIDATE EMERGES FOR COMBEE HOUSE SEAT

Pointing to her family's background in the cattle industry, a Polk City Republican has emerged as a candidate to replace outgoing state Rep. Neil Combee, R-Auburndale. Josie Tomkow opened a campaign account Tuesday to run in House District 39, which Combee will leave after being appointed Friday as federal Farm Service Agency and Rural Development state director, according to the Florida Division of Elections website. In a news release, the Tomkow campaign said she is a third-generation cattle rancher. House District 39 includes parts of Polk and Osceola counties. “Florida's agriculture industry is too important to our economy,” Tomkow said in the news release. “I will stand with Florida's farmers and ranchers to make sure our state's policies protect and defend the values of our community.” In a tweet during the weekend, Combee said he wants to stay in the seat through the upcoming legislative session, though he would know “for sure in a few days.”

WEEKLY ROUNDUP: SALACIOUSNESS IN THE SENATE

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, November 3, 2017..... Sex, rumors of sex, and more sex dominated discussions in and around the Capitol this week.

The salaciousness started last Friday, when a Senate Democratic leader resigned from office after admitting he had an extramarital affair with a lobbyist.

The window peeping intensified early this week, after it was reported that an even higher-ranking Senate Democrat found a video camera hidden in a hallway near his downtown Tallahassee condo.

And the stakes got higher early Friday evening, when Politico Florida published a mammoth story alleging sexual misconduct by Senate budget chief Jack Latvala.

The focus on legislators' libidos caused Senate President Joe Negron to spend more than 30 minutes Thursday answering reporters' questions about his policy regarding sexual harassment. By Friday night, Negron had ordered an investigation into the Latvala allegations.

The fallout that started with former Democratic Sen. Jeff Clemens's affair may have eclipsed other events, but it was a busy week in Florida's political arena.

Another Democrat resigned from the Legislature, in a plea deal that had nothing to do with bedfellows but did touch on where she went to sleep at night.

Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine officially entered the race for governor, a move that was widely expected and had nothing to do with his or anyone else's sexual hijinks.

And the Florida Supreme Court heard arguments in a case that could tip the balance of the liberal-leaning court.

At least one lawmaker thinks it's time to shine the spotlight now directed at lawmakers' extracurricular activities elsewhere.

Sen. Lauren Book, D-Plantation, pointed out that Clemens' departure "brought to light a culture problem" regarding power, influence and relationships.

"We're going to set up policies and procedures to address the problem. But let's get back to what we're here for. As much as I want to change every culture that exists, this culture has been here long before I've gotten here and it's going to exist after I leave here because it is a male-dominated world. That's the reality," she said.

CLEMENS DEPARTURE LEAVES DEMS LOOKING FOR LEADER

Clemens abruptly resigned from his Senate post last Friday, after Politico Florida reported that he admitted having an affair with lobbyist Devon West.

Clemens, a political consultant and former Lake Worth mayor who was slated to take over as leader of the Senate Democrats after the 2018 elections, said in a statement he has spent the past six months "focused on becoming a better person."

"But it is clear to me that task is impossible to finish while in elected office. The process won't allow it, and the people of Florida deserve better. All women deserve respect, and by my actions, I feel I have failed that standard. I have to do better," said Clemens, who spent two years in the Florida House before being elected to the Senate in 2012.

Clemens, 47, also apologized to his wife, his family, and "everyone that I have treated poorly in the past for putting you through this in such a public way."

Clemens said he will continue in therapy and "will seek to personally apologize to anyone I have wronged while seeking forgiveness, and will spend my time being a better husband and father."

Senate Democrats regrouped this week in anticipation of a vote as early as Tuesday on a replacement for Clemens, but remained divided about who should take over the leadership post.

Sen. Audrey Gibson, a Jacksonville Democrat and one of three remaining senior members of the caucus, is amassing support but faced opposition from Sen. Randolph Bracy of Orlando and possibly others before the vote.

"I think this whole week we'll have people deciding whether they will or they won't. What I do know for sure is we will have an election next week to replace him. The other thing I know is that I am not in that field," current Minority Leader Oscar Braynon, D-Miami Gardens, told The News Service of Florida in a telephone interview early in the week.

The race for the next leader, who will be instrumental in raising money for the 2018 elections, will also affect a heated contest about who will be at the helm of the caucus for the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions.

“Just technically, it opens up another slot that everyone who was running in `20-`22 was eligible for. And it gives people a chance to get their sea legs,” Braynon said.

The search for Clemens' replacement comes after Senate Democrats were buoyed last month by Sen. Annette Taddeo's high-profile victory over Republican Jose Felix Diaz in a Miami-Dade County special election. Former Sen. Frank Artiles, R-Miami, resigned from the Senate District 40 seat in April after a profanity-fueled and racially charged outburst at a private club near the Capitol.

Some believe that Artiles or his supporters were involved in the revelations about Clemens' affair with West, a Broward County lobbyist. Artiles did not return a phone call seeking comment Monday.

Democrats are sure to keep Clemens' Palm Beach County seat, but they may not be so lucky when it comes to a Miami-Dade County House seat now up for grabs after former state Rep. Daisy Baez stepped down. Baez, a first-term lawmaker who had been considered a rising star in her party, left the state House on Wednesday as she pleaded guilty to perjury in an investigation about her legal residency. In the plea deal, which required her to resign, Baez agreed to a single count of perjury, a first-degree misdemeanor. She will be sentenced to one year of probation, pay a \$1,000 fine, and take an ethics course with the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust. She is also prohibited from running for public office while on probation, which will keep her off the 2018 ballot.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT SCRUTINIZED

Negron insisted Thursday he has a “zero-tolerance” policy toward sexual harassment and wants to make it easier for workers to complain if they have been mistreated.

Negron's remarks came during a lengthy exchange with reporters at an annual Associated Press pre-session gathering in the Capitol and were the first time he'd spoken publicly since Clemens' hasty exit.

“We want people to feel comfortable to report any kind of misconduct in the workplace. It can be done confidentially. It will be investigated. And anyone who is found to be responsible for any type of misconduct, there are consequences set out in our rules and those will be enforced,” Negron, R-Stuart, said. Negron drew fire last weekend for changing how the Senate handles sexual harassment allegations. The revised procedure appeared to block victims from lodging complaints with the human-resources department, but Negron on Thursday reiterated that the new process was intended to give individuals more --- not fewer --- outlets for help.

“The bottom line is we have zero tolerance. We have a pro-report policy. The new policy that came out in the administrative rules actually elevated the seriousness of any allegations. Instead of sending it somewhere in the bureaucracy, to say that the buck stops in the Senate president's office, and that gave people multiple options to report, did not reduce options,” he said.

Under the new rule, workers are supposed to report allegations of sexual harassment to their immediate supervisors, the Senate chief of staff or the Senate president. Previously, employees were also able to complain directly to the human-resources department.

Late Sunday, Negron said in a memo that workers “can and should report sexual and workplace harassment to anyone they feel comfortable speaking with.”

Senate Rules Chairwoman Lizbeth Benacquisto, R-Fort Myers, and the Senate's general counsel, Dawn Roberts, are “currently reviewing the policy to make it even stronger than it already is, based on input and feedback that we've gotten from senators and staff,” Negron said Thursday.

“I'm confident that we're in a position where we will have a best practices policy. But from day one, we've had zero tolerance for any misconduct involving any members of staff,” he said.

The first test of the policy could come in the investigation that Negron ordered Friday night after the

reports about alleged misconduct by Latvala.

“The Senate has zero tolerance for sexual harassment, sexual assault, or misconduct of any kind and takes this issue with the utmost seriousness. Any allegation will be immediately and fully investigated,” Negron said in a prepared statement announcing the investigation.

STORY OF THE WEEK: The Senate continued to focus on sexual harassment policies in the wake of the abrupt resignation of state Sen. Jeff Clemens, a Lake Worth Democrat who stepped down after admitting he had an extramarital affair with a lobbyist.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “I am convinced that a lot of what is going on is an organized effort to tear down the Senate prior to session and make us weak so that we have a hard time standing up on the issues we care about.” --- Senate Appropriations Chairman Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater, on Thursday, a day before a report by Politico Florida that Latvala had acted inappropriately to women staff and lobbyists.

SLOSBERG OPENS ACCOUNT TO RUN FOR CLEMENS SEAT

Setting up a high-profile Democratic primary, former state Rep. Irv Slosberg has opened a campaign account to run for a Palm Beach County Senate seat that became vacant last week with the resignation of Lake Worth Democrat Jeff Clemens. Slosberg opened an account Thursday, joining Rep. Lori Berman, D-Lantana, in the race, according to the state Division of Elections website. Clemens, who defeated Slosberg last year for the District 31 seat, announced his resignation from the Senate last Friday after disclosures about an affair with a lobbyist. Gov. Rick Scott will call a special election to fill the seat but had not announced election dates as of Friday morning.

CANDIDATES EMERGE IN STATE HOUSE RACES

With former Rep. Daisy Baez, D-Coral Gables, resigning this week after a probe into her residency, an additional candidate has emerged to try to succeed her in the state House. West Miami Republican Liz de las Cuevas opened a campaign account in Miami-Dade County's House District 114, joining three other candidates who have taken the initial steps to run for the seat, according to the state Division of Elections website. De las Cuevas was one of a series of candidates who filed paperwork this week to run for House seats across the state. In House District 2, which includes parts of Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, Gulf Breeze Republican Robert Andrade became the second candidate to open an account to try succeed Rep. Frank White, R-Pensacola, next year. White plans to run for attorney general instead of seeking another term in the House. Meanwhile, in Pinellas County's House District 69, Democrat Jennifer Webb became the fourth candidate hoping to replace Rep. Kathleen Peters, R-Treasure Island. Peters is running for a spot on the Pinellas County Commission next year. In Orange County, Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith, D-Orlando, drew a challenge this week from Orlando Republican Jose “Pepito” Aponte in House District 49. Also, in Sarasota County's House District 72, Republican Alexandra Coe opened a campaign account this week to run in 2018. Coe will likely face the winner of a February special election in the district, which became vacant when former Rep. Alex Miller, R-Sarasota, resigned this summer.

FELONS' RIGHTS INITIATIVE CLEARS 300,000 SIGNATURES

Continuing to make progress toward reaching the 2018 ballot, backers of a proposed felons' rights constitutional amendment have submitted more than 300,000 petition signatures to the state. The political committee “Floridians for a Fair Democracy” had submitted 301,064 valid signatures as of Thursday afternoon, according to the state Division of Elections website. As an indication of the progress, that total was up from 209,079 valid signatures on Oct. 11. The committee, which is heavily supported by the American Civil Liberties Union, needs to submit a total of 766,200 signatures to get the proposal on the November 2018 ballot. The proposal would automatically restore voting rights for all nonviolent felons who have served their sentences, completed parole or probation and paid restitution. Felons convicted of violent crimes, such as murder, would not be eligible. Restoring felons' rights has long been a

controversial issue in Florida.

11-1-2017 HB 419 by Rep. Hahnfeldt seeks to require insurance for motorcycles

General Bill by Hahnfeldt Motor Vehicle Insurance: Revises definitions of "motor vehicle," "motor vehicle insurance," & "policy" to include motorcycles in provisions relating to financial responsibility for property damage, regulation of insurance rates, motor vehicle insurance contracts, & Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law. Effective Date: July 1, 2018 Last Event: Now in Insurance & Banking Subcommittee on Wednesday, November 01, 2017 11:34 AM

At this time there has not been a companion bill filed in the Senate.

Tally news 11.01.17 DOZENS OF CHANGES PROPOSED FOR STATE CONSTITUTION

From banning the death penalty to creating an elected secretary of state, members of the Florida Constitution Revision Commission have filed more than five-dozen proposals to change the state Constitution. The 37 members of the commission, which meets every 20 years and has the power to place amendments directly on the November 2018 ballot, had until just before midnight Tuesday to file their proposals. As of early Tuesday evening, 64 proposals were posted on the commission's website. That list is expected to grow, said Meredith Beatrice, a commission spokeswoman. She said the commission will announce the final list when it is complete, perhaps sometime Wednesday. The proposals reflect a wide array of issues affecting the judiciary, public schools, criminal justice, elections, environmental issues, ethics and higher education. One popular measure filed by four commissioners would raise the mandatory retirement age for judges from 70 to 75. Commissioner Don Gaetz, a former Senate president, added a variation in his proposal (P8) that would also require justices appointed to the Florida Supreme Court and judges appointed to state appellate courts to be confirmed by the Senate.

TRUJILLO NAMED AMBASSADOR TO OAS

Florida House Appropriations Chairman Carlos Trujillo was appointed Thursday by President Donald Trump as U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States. With the 2018 legislative session starting in January, the Miami Republican's continued service in the House may now depend on U.S. Senate confirmation as ambassador. "Thank you @realDonaldTrump for placing your trust in me," Trujillo tweeted Thursday. "Humbled by this incredible opportunity." Term-limited from running again for his House seat in 2018, Trujillo also was nominated in August by Trump as a U.S. representative to the General Assembly of the United Nations. Trujillo traveled to New York on Thursday to address the International Criminal Tribunal about Rwanda, according to The Miami Herald. Trujillo, a 34-year-old attorney, was elected to the state House in 2010 and became chairman of the powerful Appropriations Committee late last year. Republicans David Rivera and Ana Maria Rodriguez have opened accounts to try to succeed Trujillo in House District 105. Miami Democrats Javier Estevez and Ross Hancock have also filed for the seat, which represents parts of Miami-Dade, Broward and Collier counties.

GALVANO CALLS FOR FOCUS ON 'NEW IDEAS'

Sen. Bill Galvano was designated as the next president of the Florida Senate on Tuesday with a unanimous vote by the Republican caucus. Galvano, R-Bradenton, will succeed Senate President Joe Negron, R-Stuart, after the 2018 general election if Republicans maintain a majority in the Senate, where they now hold a 24-16 seat edge. In his acceptance speech, Galvano, a 51-year-old lawyer, promised to be an inclusive leader, relying on individual senators to develop ideas and solutions to future challenges, including the prospect of tighter state spending over the next few years. "The power of the Florida Senate and its ability to function and serve the people at the highest effectiveness lies in maximizing the strengths, perspectives, background, skills and talents of each and every member of this body," Galvano said. While acknowledging immediate issues like dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and the devastation of citrus greening disease on the state's agriculture industry, Galvano asked the senators to take a long view in developing policy. "What I would like us to focus on in the long term are new ideas, better ways to do things," Galvano said. "Innovation to prepare us to move boldly and strongly into the next century."

LAWMAKERS RENEW PUSH TO TOUGHEN TEXTING LAW

A bipartisan group of lawmakers embarked Tuesday on a road that has resulted in a dead end in the past: getting the House and Senate to make texting while driving a “primary” traffic offense in Florida. The Senate Communications, Energy and Public Utilities Committee voted 7-1 --- following testimony from family members of people killed by texting motorists --- to approve a primary-offense bill (SB 90). But the measure already faces questions over how the ban could be enforced without requiring motorists to be completely hands-free of wireless devices or if the law would create any noticeable change in motorists' behavior. Sen. Dana Young, a Tampa Republican who voted for the measure, said the bill might also not go far enough in tackling the issue of drivers distracted by watching movies, scrolling through music playlists, applying makeup or even reading books. “Why would you not just deal with the issue, which is the elephant in the room, which is distracted driving, careless driving,” Young said.

MIAMI BEACH MAYOR LAUNCHES BID FOR GOVERNOR

Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine jumped into the Democratic primary for governor on Wednesday, promising to address climate change and to raise the minimum wage if he is elected. “Today, here in Florida, it's time to do what is right,” Levine told supporters and friends in an announcement speech in Miami, echoing a phrase from civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. “It's time to address climate change by changing Tallahassee's climate of denial,” said Levine, who was dressed in a dark business suit with a tie and white Adidas sneakers. “It's time to make a day's pay enough to avoid a lifetime of dread, fearing that one event, one illness, one bad break could break an entire family.” Levine, 55, a wealthy businessman who has served two terms as Miami Beach mayor, is entering an already crowded 2018 Democratic primary, where former U.S. Rep. Gwen Graham of Tallahassee, Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum and Winter Park businessman Chris King are vying to replace term-limited Gov. Rick Scott.

In outlining his agenda, Levine is not much different from his Democratic rivals, who also want to address climate change and raise the minimum wage. But Levine can point to specific efforts as mayor in dealing with the issues.

PATRONIS TO RUN FOR FULL TERM AS STATE CFO

Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis announced Wednesday he will run for the position in 2018. The announcement by the former state legislator and Panama City restaurateur came about four months after Gov. Rick Scott appointed him to the Cabinet post after the resignation of former Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater. Patronis, a Republican who also served a stint on the Florida Public Service Commission, issued a statement early Wednesday that asked for support and highlighted his association with Scott, who also is expected to be on the ballot next year in a run for the U.S. Senate. “Gov. Rick Scott appointed me to this post in June; and I continue to work closely with him to guard your state tax dollars from fraud and abuse, and make sure government regulations are fair and predictable for Florida job creators,” Patronis said in the announcement. “I get up every day excited to do this job. I love what I do. I get to protect the hard-earned money of Floridians and help the governor in his mission to create more jobs.”

HARRELL TO RUN FOR NEGRON SENATE SEAT

State Rep. Gayle Harrell, R-Stuart, has opened a campaign account to run in 2020 for the seat that will be vacated by Senate President Joe Negron, according to the state Division of Elections website. Negron, R-Stuart, can't run for re-election in Senate District 25 because of term limits. Harrell is the first candidate to file for the Republican-leaning Treasure Coast seat, which includes Martin, St. Lucie and part of Palm Beach counties. Harrell, who chairs the House Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee, was first elected to the House in 2000. She served until 2008, when she was term-limited from office. She returned to the House in 2010 and again faces term limits in 2018. Harrell finished second in a three-way Republican primary for Congress in 2008.

GALVANO COMMITTEE TOPS \$70,000 IN OCTOBER

Bradenton Republican Bill Galvano, who was formally designated Tuesday as the next Senate president, has raised at least \$71,000 this month for his political committee known as Innovate Florida, according to the committee's website. The committee raised \$218,500 in September, according to the state Division of Elections website. Galvano is slated to take over as Senate president after the 2018 elections

ABATE Palm Beach Chapter Meeting Minutes November 19, 2017

Meeting Called to order at 11:42 AM 22 Members Present 2 Guest Present

Meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence

PRESIDENT: Thanked everyone for coming out. Participation is down in the county and chapter membership is also down. Spread the word to your fellow bikers and try to get some new members. Chapter participation at events helps our visibility,

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: We are in good standing.

MEMBERSHIP: Current membership is down to 153.

SARGENT AT ARMS: Would appreciate people showing up to help with our December event.

SAFETY: Bike nights got rained out this past month.

DELEGATE: State meeting is December 9 in Vero Beach.

LEGISLATIVE: Full report is available in the newsletter. Clemons is out. We need people to make the ride to the Capitol.

PR/COMMUNICATIONS: Flyer was changed online for our event with the new venue. It was too late for the printed edition. Next months will have updated flyer..

PRODUCTS: We need a products person! New patches will have a price increase.

NEWSLETTER: Submissions need to be in by the 21st this month.

OLD BUSINESS: Volunteers will be needed to hand out flyers at the fairground the morning of our event. We also need people to help out with the event. Volunteers to help at the fairgrounds should meet behind the marathon on State Road 7 and process drive at 10:30am KU 10:45am

NEW BUSINESS: No new business

GOOD OF THE ORDER: There will be a fishing tournament by Reel Time USA benefitting veterans. It will be February 2nd at the Juno Pier. See LB for details.

Bowen Realty
 1168 Royal Palm Beach Blvd.
 Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
 thisgirlssellsrealestate@yahoo.com
561-312-4080
 Office: 561-651-9795
 Fax: 561-651-9895



Melissa Limbaugh
REALTOR*

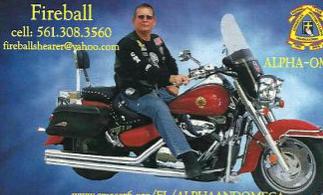


pampered chef

Deborah Hamby
Independent Consultant
561-847-5331
pamperedchef.biz/DHamby

MEETING ADJOURNED at
12:30 pm

Fireball
 cell: 561.308.3560
 fireballbheater@yahoo.com



ALPHA-OMEGA
 www.cmser6.org/FL/ALPHAANDOMEGA

New & Used Motorcycle Parts, Accessories
GORILLA MOTORS, INC.
 www.gorillamotors.com
 gorillamotors@yahoo.com

All Makes & Models Mail Order • Export
 Retail • Wholesale

1547 N. Florida Mango Rd
 Bldg. 19
 West Palm Beach, FL 33409

(561) 684-3953
 Cell: 236-0035
 Fax: 687-1781

SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS' BUSINESSES

Your Business Card
could be here with your
Paid Membership

VIDEO / GRAPHICS / PHOTOGRAPHY



MARMOT PRODUCTIONS
 Daniel R. Henderson
 COMPUTER REPAIR / WEB DESIGN
 561-702-9929
 BIKERONLINEGUIDE@GMAIL.COM

Rickenback Realty, Inc.



Harold Walters
Realtor/Associate
Cell: (954) 260-9681

Office: (305) 424-1044
 Fax: (305) 935-5182
 20900 West Dixie Highway
 Aventura, Florida 33180
 Email: waltersharold3902@comcast.net



Mobile Welding - Certified Welders
All Types of Metal

Ph: 561-844-2377
 Fax: 561-844-2376
 8049 Monetary Dr. Suite C-2
 West Palm Beach FL

MEMBER


Licensed & Insured
 With over 20 Years Experience
www.UltimateFabandWeld.com
sales@ultimatefabandweld.com

WHY JOIN ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC.?

ABATE 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. In 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.

BENEFITS Your money is used to provide a lobbyist to the state and federal government to watch for our rights and freedom. The State *MasterLink* newsletter every 2 months we bring back from State meeting or read it online. The chapter newsletter is available online at palmbeach.abateflorida.com so is in color, with active Internet links and zoomable. Members get free classified ads in our newsletters.

INSURANCE As an active member 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 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 members up to 10% discount and \$3000 parts and accessories coverage. They are at 190 Hwy A1A Suite, Satellite Beach FL . 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/Chapter executive board.

EMAILINGS you can 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** another way to communicate with members. Your phone number may be added to our 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>

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.

Membership Melissa Limbaugh 561-312-4080 Melissapalmbeachabate@yahoo.com

A.D.D. INSURANCE POLICY UPDATE

We all realize the \$4,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance policy if 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 of FL Inc. 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 _____

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.

MEMBERSHIPS FEE \$ _____

Large Chapter Patch 10" by 10.5" \$45 each # ___ Total \$ _____

Small Chapter Patch 5" by 5.5" \$20 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

ABATE of Florida, Inc.
PALM BEACH CHAPTER
DECEMBER 10, 2017 1PM-5PM
ANNUAL FREEDOM RIGHTS PARTY

RENEGADES

COUNTRY BAR AND GRILL

600 Village Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL. 33409

VENDORS - 50/50 - DOOR PRIZES
\$3.00 per person / \$5.00 per couple

Proceeds support our continued legislative efforts in Tallahassee

LIVE MUSIC
WITH
STATIC

ABATE PALM BEACH CHAPTER



MEMBERSHIP AND SAFETY BOOTH

Everyone is invited to join the fun, *RAIN or SHINE*

Contact for more information:

Debbie Hamby - (561) 847-5331

[HTTP://PALMBEACH.ABATEFLORIDA.COM](http://PALMBEACH.ABATEFLORIDA.COM)

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. DOES NOT CONDONE DRINKING AND RIDING.
DONATIONS TO ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES.
A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION
OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT,
APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. WWW.SOSHELPFLA.COM 1-800-435-7352



Next Palm Beach Chapter Meeting

VFW POST 4143

DEC. 19, 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.**

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.