

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. PALM BEACH CHAPTER



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DUCATION**

**NEXT CHAPTER
MEETING
11:30 AM
3rd Sunday
Feb. 16**

**CHECK TWICE
FOR MOTORCYCLES**

**LET THOSE
WHO RIDE
DECIDE!**



**ABATE of Florida, Inc.
23rd ANNUAL FREEDOM
RIGHT RIDE**

Do you believe in your rights?

Do you want to keep your rights?

Will you go to Tallahassee to fight for your rights?

**RIDE TO THE STATE CAPITOL
MONDAY, February 10.2020**

For more information : ABATE of Florida Inc 1-386-943-9610

"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." ~ Thomas Jefferson

Kickstands up at 9:00am - Behind the Super 8 in Monticello

**Super 8 Monticello
140 Pafford Road
Monticello, FL 32336
850-997-8888**

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Put in the subject: ABATE and the officer to whom should see it and what about to so that message is directed right

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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 530944
Lake Park, FL 33403**

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President's Message

Curtis Alva

February 10 is the 22rd Annual ABATE of Florida Freedom Rights Rally in Tallahassee. Are you willing to ride to Tally to defend your rights as a biker? Hundreds of bikers will ride right up to the Capitol Steps, and then meet with Legislators, aides, lobbyists, the press and other concerned citizens to fight for our rights. There are campgrounds and hotels in the area. Many ABATE members from this area are riding up together and you can join us.

We rode to Johnny Rose's annual for the Southeast chapter of ABATE. Great support from Ft Lauderdale area bikers, a rocking band, vendors and lots of prizes. We always have a good time there. February is a good month to ride, lots of bike nights, almost every night of the week. This is also the time to get your scooter in shape for longer rides to Daytona and points north. Bike shops are busy this time of year, so plan ahead.

This is also the time for new nominations for directors and other officers of our chapter. My job in 2020 is going to take me out of Florida too often for me to serve as president beyond the end of my current term, so I am not running for re-election. This means that our chapter will need a new president as of June. Nominations begin next month. The job of president is an honor and a challenge and a good way to meet new people and learn new things. I've been richly rewarded for all my service, as have all of my other leaders. So, step up and get involved in guiding our chapter and protecting our rights as bikers.

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



Find us on
Facebook

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

UPCOMING Event Schedule

Sunday Feb. 1 USMV MC Annual Homestead

Wed Feb. 5 - Gorilla Bob's Island Jack's, and Pirates Well Lake Park Bike Nights

Feb. 5-10 Full Throttle Festival St Pete

Thurs. Feb. 6 - Abacoa Bike Night PB Harley 7-10, , Howley's Bike Night

Friday Feb 7 Black Piston's Open House

Saturday LUTZ apalooza Ride & Music Festival for Military % 1st Reponders Sunrise FL

Sunday Feb. 9 ABATE FL State Meeting; Scurvy Few MC Party

MONDAY Feb. 10 ABATE Ride to the Capital Tallahassee

Wed Feb. 12 - Gorilla Bob's Island Jack's, and Pirates Well Lake Park Bike Nights

Thurs. Feb. 13 Vintage Iron Bike Night

Friday Feb. 14 AOA WPB Open House

Feb.—15 Thuder by the Bay Sarasots

3rd **Sunday Feb. 16 — 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 Feb 16 AOA Broward Annual

Wed Feb. 19 - Gorilla Bob's Island Jack's, and Pirates Well Lake Park Bike Nights

Thurs. Feb. 20 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night 45th St

Friday Feb 21 States MC Lake Worth Open House @ LLB

Sunday Jan. 26 Wheels of Man Annual

Wed Feb. 26 - Gorilla Bob's Island Jack's, and Pirates Well Lake Park Bike Nights

Thurs. Feb. 27 - Turboz Custom Cycles Bike Night 7-10 PM Ralph's Stand Up Bar Jupiter

Friday Feb. 28 - Lone Legion Brotherhood Open House

Sunday March 1 Hermandad MC Annual

March 6 to 15 DAYTONA BIKEWEEK

REMINDER: EVERY

Wed Nights Gorilla Motors/PBH Bike Night at Island Jack's, Pirate's Well Lake Park

Sat. night Fly n Wheels Open House

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



Ride ends & event begins at Markham Park
16001 W. State Rd. 84 Sunrise, FL
Event Entry 8:30 am - 4 pm

**37-Mile Motorcycle Ride
& Festival with \$20 Donation**

\$75 Donation gets you a raffle ticket
for a 2019 Street Bob, limited edition
Harley Davidson/LUTZapalooza shirt &
up-front lineup

Ride Begins at Alligator Alley Harley Davidson
201 International Pkwy. Sunrise, FL
VIP Breakfast & Registration 6:30 am
Kickstands Up 9 am

Register in-store at
Alligator Alley Harley Davidson
or online at www.LutzLiveToTell.org
For more info: 954-445-1590

- Live Music all day
- Spartan Sword brought by FDNY (forged from the Twin Towers steel)
- Appearance of Tank03XX
- Lutz Live To Tell Honor Guard
- Appearances by Mama Lutz & Boone Culter
- Guest Speaker: City of Sunrise Mayor Ryan
- Military, Police, & Fire Vehicles
- SWAT Demonstration
- Family Fun Activities
- Exotic Animals
- International Food & Beer Trucks
- Vendors & Local Non-Profits

WIN A HARLEY DAVIDSON RAFFLE
2019 Custom Street Bob details online

DEERFIELD BEACH WHEELS OF MAN M.C. OF MAN M.C. FLORIDA
WELCOMES EVERYONE TO OUR
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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.

First Impressions: Zachary Levi on the Harley-Davidson LiveWire Electric Motorcycle



Zachary Levi is having his moment. The actor had a breakout 2019, earning kudos for his title role in *Shazam!* and gracing the cover of our April issue. He also resurfaced for a bit of closure as the jilted fiance in season three of the hit Amazon Prime show *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. And *Shazam! 2* has already been announced for 2022. But the actor has always had a daredevil streak—for example, skydiving for his *Men's Journal* cover story. And motorcycles.

As an up-and-coming actor in LA back in the '00s, Levi quickly recognized the value of being able to zip through Southern California traffic on two wheels. He's the proud owner of a Ducati Monster, as well as a Harley-Davidson Sport Glide, and loves the distinct sensation each bike brings to the road.

Levi recently got the opportunity to test ride the brand-new 2020 Harley-Davidson LiveWire—the electric motorcycle that the venerable company hopes will (ahem) spark a renewed interest in the heritage brand. *Men's Journal* was also lucky enough to take the LiveWire for a spin last summer. Recently, we chatted with Levi about our shared experience aboard the groundbreaking motorcycle.

Men's Journal: What did you think of the LiveWire?

Zachary Levi: It's fast, that's for sure. I was pretty blown away. I can't wait to get one of my own. I didn't get to ride it long enough; took it out around my property. [Levi has a ranch in the Texas Hill Country.] But it's super smooth, and gets up and goes real quick. To jump on and have immediate power like that, and not have to shift or do anything? You get to just enjoy the ride. It's exhilarating.

Agreed. One of the more shocking aspects was the lack of feedback. Not just that distinctive Harley rumble, but the complete absence of sound or engine vibration. It's jarring at first, but once we got used to it, we found it kind of liberating.

Exactly. It frees you up to just focus on the environment and what's going on around you. At first, it's very weird; your clutch hand is wondering what it's supposed to be doing, your shifter toe is wondering what it's supposed to be doing ... you feel like you're trying something completely new and different. But at some point, you realize it's just motorcycling without all the distractions. You can enjoy being on the bike that much more.

It's great on backroads because you can go out and not pollute the air or disrupt the wildlife. I went out back on my property and rode right past a deer. He just looked at me. Never even moved. If I was on a combustion bike, any sign of wildlife would've been long gone before I ever got within sight of it.

Harley's betting big on this electric tech, and plans on releasing at least two more electric motorcycles soon. Is electric the future of motorcycling?

Listen, I'm a total futurist. I believe electricity is the future of all transportation. I mean, do I love the Harley rumble? Sure! It's part of Harley's DNA. But it's nice to be able to ride along and listen to music or focus on nature, to just enjoy the environment and not contribute to noise pollution...or "pollution" pollution. Not trying to make some political statement. Although I do think it's the right thing to do ecologically.

I'm just saying, from a performance standpoint, technology has gotten to where if you want top-level performance, you've gotta go electric. What Tesla's accomplished in cars is incredible. The speed and power, the immediate torque. And with motorcycles, the simplicity is impossible to deny.

The writing's on the wall, like it or lump it: The combustion engine is gonna go the way of the dodo. I don't think it's gonna be that long till we have hover cars and jetpacks and all that stuff.

At some point, we won't even have rubber on the road.

There's an old saying that there are two kinds of motorcyclists: Those who have crashed, and those who will crash. Which one are you?

Oh, I've crashed! Several times. Fortunately, none of them have been tragic, or even all that serious. Most were just rookie mistakes, those little drops when you're learning how to ride.

But one of my buddies gave me the best advice when I was starting out: Always assume no one can see you. No one. Not the car next to you, not the car in front of you, not the pedestrian in the crosswalk. Not even that driver you're positive you just made eye contact with! Just ride like you're invisible, and take responsibility for keeping yourself out of danger.

Once you assume no one knows you're there, you become a lot more aware as a rider. You get into an almost trance-like focus on riding. It's really kind of Zen.

That's one of the great pleasures of riding, that Zen-like state where you're focused on the task at hand, and nothing else.

It really is. All the distractions in life just melt away into the background, and you're just living in the moment. And trying not to die [laughs].

That said, motorcycle sales have been dipping for years, and it seems like young people aren't taking up riding these days. Let me ask you this: Are motorcycles still cool?

Dude, I don't know. I'm nearly 40 and while I still think of myself as a pretty youthful guy, the more you traipse around on Instagram, the more you realize you don't know what the hell the younger generation is into.

<https://www.mensjournal.com/gear/zachary-levi-on-the-harley-davidson-livewire-electric-motorcycle/>

Going electric could help revive the motorcycle industry

Peter Valdés-Dapena byline By Peter Valdes-Dapena, CNN Business

Motorcycle sales, particularly in the United States, have been struggling ever since the Great Recession. As older riders lose interest, or simply become unable to ride any longer, the younger generation hasn't been showing the same kind of enthusiasm.

But the industry is hoping that electric motorcycles -- with a quieter, simpler experience -- might be the key to attracting new riders.

For one thing, electric motorcycles are easier to ride. With an electric motor, there's no need to shift gears. To experienced riders, that's no big deal, but most Americans today have become accustomed to automatic transmissions and don't know how to shift gears.

"It's just a lot easier learning curve," said Susan Carpenter, a writer and radio host specializing in motorcycles. "You just hop on and twist the throttle. If you can balance, you can go."

Zero Motorcycles's electric motorcycles have no transmissions or gears to shift.

Another benefit is that electric motorcycles are much less noisy than gasoline-powered motorcycles. To many veteran riders, the roar of the engine is part of the excitement. But a lot of other people would prefer to enjoy their surroundings much more peacefully. The bikes also don't have hot engines and exhaust pipes that can become burn hazards, especially when parked around kids.

Electric motorcycles also qualify for federal and state tax credits, similar to those for electric cars, although in smaller amounts.

There are tradeoffs, of course. Electric motorcycles have the same disadvantages as electric cars, namely cost and range. Motorcycles can only accommodate small batteries so they have a lot less range than gas-powered bikes. And that range diminishes greatly during high-speed highway riding because the bike's electric motor has to compensate for increased wind resistance pressing against the rider's not-so-aerodynamic body.

Harley-Davidson's Livewire motorcycle is likely too expensive for most first-time buyers.

Harley-Davidson's Livewire motorcycle is likely too expensive for most first-time buyers.

Hoping to get the attention of a new generation of riders, Harley-Davidson introduced the LiveWire electric motorcycle earlier this year.

But with a starting price of nearly \$30,000 -- more than three times the cost of an entry level motorcycle -- it's unlikely to attract many novice riders. With its extreme performance capabilities -- it can go from zero to 60 miles per hour in just three seconds -- the LiveWire doesn't appear to be for first-time riders. (The bike does have selectable performance modes so it can be set up for less aggressive riding.)

"LiveWire sets the stage and sets the tone and is designed and priced to be a halo vehicle," said Harley-Davidson spokesman Paul James, explaining that the LiveWire is aimed at establishing an image for the brand's electric offerings rather than being a big seller. "And we'll quickly follow that up with other form factors and other electric two-wheelers that will be in various price points and aimed at different customers."

Not your father's Harley: How the motorcycle industry is attracting new riders
Harley-Davidson (HOG) wanted this bike to get people used to the idea of a motorcycle that

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issue

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ABATE - Palm Beach Chapter
P.O. Box 530944
Lake Park, FL 33403

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doesn't have the brand's signature engine burble, said James. The LiveWire does make its own distinct sound, though. It comes from the gears that carry power from the electric motor to the belt that spins the back wheel. Harley-Davidson engineers spent time specifically tuning the naturally occurring whirring sound, much as they would the rumble of a gasoline engine. For the real novices, Harley-Davidson offers the IronE, which targets tiny riders aged three to seven. The teeny off-road bike is powered by a small detachable battery similar to ones used for electric power tools and starts at around \$650. Harley-Davidson has also shown pedaled e-bikes and scooters as concepts.

The design of the Cake Ösa+ was inspired by a workbench and it definitely looks that way. California-based Zero offers electric motorcycles like the Zero FX ZF3.6 for around \$9,000. That bike has an estimated 27 miles of riding range from a small battery that can be easily changed for a fully charged one when it runs low on power. For about twice that amount, or around \$20,000, bikes like the Zero SR/F can get about 123 miles in combined city and highway riding. (That compares to the 95 miles Harley-Davidson estimates for the LiveWire.) Buyers can also add battery power using a "Power Tank" accessory.

Elon Musk reveals when Tesla's electric ATV will go on sale

Zero's bikes are used in a program called Discover the Ride, which introduces novice riders to motorcycle riding and takes place at Progressive International Motorcycle Shows across the United States. Riders demonstrate their basic two-wheeler skills on an electrically-assisted bicycle, then they are offered a ride on a Zero electric motorcycle.

Cake, a Swedish company, has models starting at a slightly more affordable \$8,500. For that price, a buyer can get Cake's ultra-minimalist Ösa+ model. Its design was inspired by a workbench and it looks like it. With detachable clamps, the owner can quickly customize the bike with cargo racks or an additional seat. The Ösa+ has a top speed of just 60 miles an hour. It's intended as an urban workhorse.

The Cake Kalk& is a street-legal version of Cake's electric dirt bike.

Cake also makes the slightly faster and pricier Kalk& with a more traditional, but still distinctively spare, design.

With their emphasis on light weight and simplicity, Cake bikes take the idea that electric motorcycling should be different from riding a gas-powered bike to an extreme. The models are particularly popular with new riders, according to a company spokesman. After being available in the US for a little over a year, there's a three-month waiting list for the bikes, Cake claims.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/12/31/cars/electric-motorcycles/index.html>

Motorcycle Traveler – Book Review

A motorcycling icon fulfills his moto wanderlust

Troy Siahaan December 24, 2019 Motorcycle.com

What would you do if you came face to face with your own mortality? For many of us, especially in this sport, it's a scenario we think about in the abstract; we're either going to go out in a blaze of glory doing something we love, or Father Time will continue undefeated. We don't think, much less expect, something like cancer to get in the way of our plans. Peter Starr was one of those people, living comfortably – some would even say successfully – thanks to motorcycles.

One fateful day in 2004 would turn his world upside down. Starr was diagnosed with colon cancer, bringing into crystal clear focus how finite his life really was. It was then that he

DELEGATE REPORT

It is time for Tallahassee again. State meeting Sunday February 9th and the Ride to the Capital Monday the 10th. This year our Chapter will be represented by Snooze and Foxy Babe on the ride. Since I can't ride now, Half Pint and I will be visiting the Legislators' offices. It would be great to have more join us there as is one thing to ride up that hill and see the Capital Buildings.

I plan to break up the trip by staying in St. Peter for the Full Throttle Expo. I did this before and was a great time

ABATE of FL Inc.
Palm Beach Chapter

GBNF

- Ed "Gunner" Bassett
- Frank "Pipes" Cook
- Robert "Torch" Lyle
- Niurka Crespo
- Phil Moore
- Michael Steffy
- Tom "Ramblin' Man" Botticelli
- Karen Watkins
- "Bones" Maurice Clark
- Danny Palm

STATE MEETINGS

Host Chapter & Location

2020 State Meetings-

- Feb. 9 Monticello
- Feb.10 Ride to Capital Tallahassee Host State
- April 11 Southwest
- June 13 Vintage
- August 8 Lake
- Oct. 10 Gulf Coast
- Dec. 12 Forest



23rd ANNUAL FREEDOM RIGHT MEETING

For More Information ABATE of Florida Inc 1-386-943-9810

State Meeting Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 2:00pm
State Board Meeting Sunday, February 9 at Noon
American Legion Hall - 1065 S. Water St., Monticello, FL 32344

Directions to Hall: Go 2 blocks west of the Opera House on US 90, then turn west on Water Street. Go 1/2 mile to the Legion Hall

"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." ~ Thomas Jefferson

Will you go to Tallahassee to fight for your rights?

Ride to the Capitol Monday, February 10, 2020
Kickstands up at 9:00am - Behind the Super 8 in Monticello

Super 8 Monticello: 140 Pafford Rd., Monticello, FL 32336. Phone: 850-997-8888
Take I-10 to Exit 225 South on US 19. The hotel is located on the West side.

Days Inn Monticello: 44 Woodworth Dr., Monticello, FL 32336. Phone: 850-997-5988. Take I-10 to Exit 225 South on US 19. The hotel is located on the East side.

There are other hotels and campgrounds in the area. The two listed above offer discounts to ABATE members. Please make reservations early.

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23rd ANNUAL FREEDOM RIGHT RIDE

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Do you want to keep your rights?
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RIDE TO THE STATE CAPITOL MONDAY, February 10, 2020

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stopped giving in to the excuses he told himself and decided to check off something he'd always wanted to do: explore the world on two wheels. In his book, *Motorcycle Traveler*, Starr takes us through his six-year journey, crossing 12 countries off his bucket list long before that was ever a phrase.

The Legend

If the name Peter Starr rings a bell to some of you, there's a good reason. If not, let's put it this way: any motorcycle video you've ever seen since the 1970s has been shot and/or influenced by him. Starr is the godfather of motorcycle movie-making. Ever watched a race and marveled at the on-board footage? He started it way back in 1980, long before GoPros, putting a shoe-box-sized camera on the gas tank of Don Emde's bike and having it record during the 1980 AMA national at Laguna Seca. Yes, during the race. In all, Starr produced and directed more than 50 movies or TV shows centered around motorcycles and motorsports.

The film Starr is best known for is his 1979 classic, *Take It To The Limit*, chronicling the life of the top motorcycle racers – spanning several different disciplines – of the time. These include Kenny Roberts, Wayne Rainey, Freddie Spencer, Mike Hailwood, Roger DeCoster, Jay Springsteen, and Barry Sheene, just to name a small few. Never before had viewers been exposed to the beauty of motorcycle sport in such a cinematic and immersive way.

Motorcycle Traveler A remote location in Ecuador, accessible via motorcycle.

It was because of his contributions to motorcycling as a filmmaker that Starr was inducted into the AMA Hall of Fame in 2017. But to only recognize Starr as a passionate motorcyclist with a camera would be doing a disservice. Since his cancer diagnosis, he has dedicated himself to cancer awareness and, as he puts it, living a purposeful life. This led to the desire to explore via motorcycle. In *Motorcycle Traveler*, Starr takes us along for his journey, and as any good motorcycle travel guide does, he describes the beautiful landscapes, delicious foods, and gracious people he meets along the way as he travels to Thailand, Poland, Canada, Ecuador, Wales/Isle of Man, New Zealand, Scotland, Taiwan, Finland, Romania, Australia, and Israel.

Each country gets its own chapter, so it's not imperative to read each chapter in successive order. Because of this, I chose to prioritize the countries I was personally interested in first. It just so happens my curiosity was piqued initially by Israel, the last chapter.

Likely not an image you'll see on a postcard from Israel.

Not a destination I've considered for motorcycle travel, as it turns out, it wasn't on

Starr's list either. Ignorance and a misguided view from western media skewed Starr's perception of the country, but an invite from a friend who organized a tour led by government certified tour guide Duby Nevo changed Starr's perceptions entirely. Everywhere Starr rode – from Tel Aviv to Caesarea, Masada to Arad, the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea, and of course Jerusalem, rich history was everywhere, explained in great detail by Nevo. And if the group couldn't stop to see a sight, Nevo would talk about it via communicators in their helmets, making the ride that much more fulfilling for Starr. A self-proclaimed history buff, visiting a Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy site like Jerusalem resulted in information overload.

Personally, I enjoy a travel log so rich in sights, people, and food, that I forget all about the motorcycle. Sure we all want to ride on exciting roads, but the people you meet along the way and the experiences you share are the memories that will last far longer. In *Motorcycle Traveler*, Starr seamlessly intertwines the excitement of traversing foreign lands on two

wheels with the excitement and wonder that comes with exploration. Take Thailand for example. A popular tourist destination, Starr's imagery through Thailand showcases the breathtaking

temples, statues, and people, with far fewer references and pictures of the motorcycle or the roads – partially because his hands are busy riding to take a photo, but also because that's saved for the body text of the book, where I think it's better suited. There Starr lets the reader imagine the scenery (and the conditions) through his descriptions, providing historical context along the way. The occasional exception is when Starr can show the curiosity locals have when encountered with a modern motorcycle.

It's hard not to be inspired when beauty like this surrounds you in Thailand.

While not a self-proclaimed history buff, I do have an appreciation for the past, and Starr's visit to Poland caught my attention for one simple reason: Auschwitz. It's hard not to stop and reflect whenever Nazi death camps are mentioned. In reality, the chapter on Poland only briefly mentions Auschwitz and instead takes the reader on a whirlwind 1400-mile tour covered in 29 hours. The tales of castles, fine dining, and illegally riding motorcycles through the pedestrian walkways of Wawel Royal Castle (and the ensuring police intervention!) were fun and light-hearted, only to be weighed heavily by the imagery of the Birkenau extermination camp.

Take It To The Limit remains a classic motorcycling film, and part of it had to do with the mystique surrounding the Isle of Man TT. So, it's only natural for Starr to relive the nostalgia on his trip to the Island, this time going on a joy ride instead of filming a race – though, of course, he timed his visit to coincide with the world's most famous road race. There have been many a documentary, diary, and story written about the TT. Starr's is yet another reason to visit the tiny landmass should you ever get the chance.

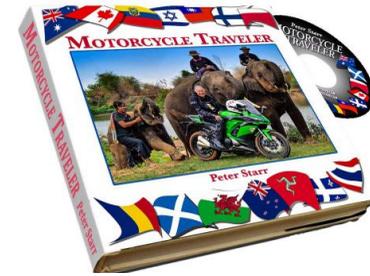
Mike "The Bike" Hailwood hiding in plain sight getting laps in for his return to the Isle of Man TT after 10 years away. Ostensibly he was riding Starr's camera bike for video footage, but after getting the shots he came back to win the illustrious race two more times.

What was different in the book is the two-page aside where Starr reveals a fascinating secret about the legendary Mike Hailwood coming out of a ten-year retirement to not only race, but win, the TT. Only a few months prior, however, Hailwood needed a way to self-evaluate his own skills after the time off without raising any alarm bells the rumor mill could use to announce his comeback. It just so happens Starr needed someone to ride a camera bike around the 37-mile course and provide commentary. When fate collided, Starr got some amazing footage and commentary, while Mike The Bike confirmed he still had "it," winning both in 1978 and 1979.

No chapter in the book brings home the Purposeful Life message better than the chapter on Taiwan. In 2011, Starr watched a Youtube video about a group of old Taiwanese men sliding into the final years of their lives, looking back at their life's adventures together, before one breaks free from the proverbial shackles of old age and decides to ride a motorcycle again. The rest soon follow and the message is about making the most of life. Shockingly, this was a commercial for a bank(!), but the message rang loud and clear for Starr.

The chapter on Taiwan is near and dear to Starr, as the impact the Grand Riders made on him is deep and long-lasting.

Turns out these men are real and are called the Grand Riders. Starr tracked them down and went on a ride with them – men ranging in age from 75 to 92! This initial ride led to more, wherein Starr brought an increasing number of Americans. As Starr notes, the difference between this ride and a more traditional motorcycle trek in foreign lands is the “cultural exchange between two peoples of similar needs and challenges where the glue that holds their experiences together is the joy of riding.” Further proof that, when the years behind you far outnumber the years you’ve got ahead, riding with like-minded, similarly-aged compatriots will still keep you young at heart.



Parting Message

Peter Starr is still alive today, having done his best to keep cancer at bay. I spoke to him at length during a chance meeting at a vintage racing event, where he seemed calm, at ease, and yet still very excited about whatever life has in store. It didn’t really register with me at the time, but after reading the book, along with the accompanying DVD (which, honestly, was a small disappointment, as it features quick narration about each country from Starr followed by brief b-roll footage seemingly taken from a local travel bureau), I got a better understanding of Starr’s purposeful life message. Seeing the world helps break you of your prejudices, but seeing the world from the seat of a motorcycle expands your mind even farther.

<https://www.motorcycle.com/features/motorcycle-traveler-book-review.html>

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WEEKLY EVENTS

Mon Dinner 6:30 States MC Pompano Clubhouse

Once a Month Tues 2nd Tues Jupiter Moose Bike Night

Wed Island Jack's Bike Night with Gorilla Motors

Wed Chit Chat's bike night 7pm Free BBQ, music

Wed Pirates Well Bike Night 9477 Alt. A1A Lake Park

Last Wed Gatti's Garage Bike Night 130 South H St Lake Worth

1st Thurs PBH Abacoa Bike Night

1st Thurs. Howley's Bike Night 4700 S Dixie WPB

2nd Thurs TBS Bike Night Tequesta

3rd Thursday Palm Beach and Treasure Coast Harley Bike Nights

Last Thurs Turboz/Ralph's Bike Night Jupiter

1st Fri Enforcers MC Party

1st Fri Black Pistons MC WPB Open House

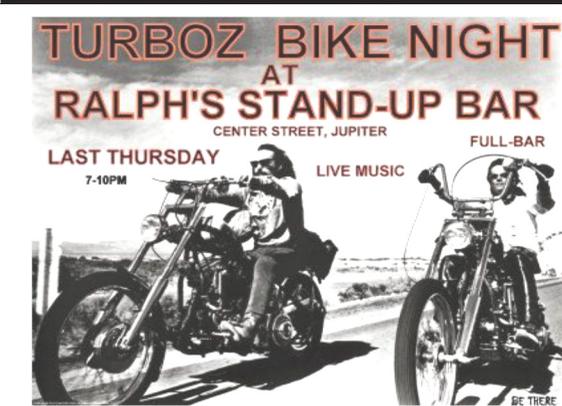
2nd Fri AOA WPB Open Houses

3rd Fri States MC Lake Worth Open House 8pm @LLB

4th Fri Lone Legion MC Brotherhood Open House

SAT HOG Morning Palm Beach Harley and often other events and bikini bike washes Grill Days

SAT night Fly n Wheels Open



**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. Look for break-
fast and the meeting

2020

- 3rd Sunday Feb. 16
- 3rd Sunday Mar. 22
- 3rd Sunday Apr. 19
- 3rd Sunday May 17
- 3rd Sunday June 21
- 3rd Sunday July 19
- 3rd Sunday Aug. 16

2ND THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH TALES OF TERROR
VINTAGE IRON CLUB
the coming of...
the POLLUTION MONSTERS!
the overlords of doom!
ALL BIKES
WELCOME
FREE PARKING!!
STREET TACOS!!
DRINK SPECIALS!!
VINTAGE MOTORCYCLE NIGHTS WITH LOST WEEKENDS &
VINTAGE IRON CLUB!!!
2ND THURS OF THE MONTH 6-10PM
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• 1ST THURSDAY EVERY MONTH, 7-10PM
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• DRINK SPECIALS @ ALL BARS
• RAFFLES BY PALM BEACH HARLEY
• FUN GAMES AT THE EVENT

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**SOUTH FLORIDA
PRESIDENTS COUNCIL
BROWARD EVENTS**

FEBRUARY

- 1st-Sat USMV MC Homestead Annual
- 9th-Sun Scurvy Few MC - PARTY
- 16th-Sun AOA Ft. Laud. Annual
- 22rd-Sat Wheels of Man MC Annual

MARCH

- 1st-Sun Hermandad MC - Annual
- 6th-15th DAYTONA BIKE WEEK
- 17th-Tue St. Patrick's Day
- 21st-Sat USMV MC CH.1 - Party

APRIL

- 5th-Sun Mystic Seven MC - Party
- 12th-Sun CMA - EASTER SERVICE
- 19th-Sun STATES MC - Annual
- 24th-26th LEESBURG BIKEFEST

MAY

- 3rd-Sun Southern MC - Annual
- 9th-Sat OUTCAST MC - Annual
- 16th-Sat Leathernecks MC - PARTY
- 24th-Sun S.E. ABATE - Memorial Day EVENT
- 30th-Sat New Attitudes MC Annual

JUNE

- 6th-Sat AOA South FL MEMORIAL GBNF 1%ers
- 7th-Sun Wings of Gold MC Ft. Laud. - PARTY
- 13th-Sat Midnight Club Reapers MC - Annual
- 27th-Sat USMV MC S. BROWARD - Annual

JULY

- 4th-Sat Independence Day
- 12th-Sun Alternative MC - Annual
- 19th-Sun Soldiers for Jesus MC BROWARD - Annual
- 25th-Sat Wheels of Man MC - CHILI COOK-OFF

AUGUST

- 7th-16th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
- 14th-16th South FL Tattoo Convention
- 16th-Sun AOA FT. LAUD. -51st ANNIVERSARY PARTY-
- 23rd-Sun Scurvey Few MC Annual
- 30th- Sun Southern MC - TEDDY BEAR RUN

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Fly n Wheels Open House USMV MC Annual Homestead
2	3	4	5 Gorilla Bob/ Island Jack's Pirate's Well Lake Park Bike Nights Full Throttle Expo	6 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night Abacoa Howley's Bike Night Full Throttle Expo	7 Black Pistons Open House Full Throttle Expo	8 Fly n Wheels Open House Full Throttle Expo LutzApalooza Broward
9 ABATE FL State Meeting Survey Few MC Party	10 ABATE FL Ride to the Capital	11	12 Gorilla Bob/ Island Jack's Pirate's Well Lake Park Bike Nights	13 Vintage Iron Bike Night	14 AOA WPB Open House Thunder by the Bay	15 Fly n Wheels Open House Thunder by the Bay
16 ABATE PB Chapter Meeting Broward AOA Annual	17	18	19 Gorilla Bob/ Island Jack's Pirate's Well Lake Park Bike Nights	20 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night 45th St	21 States LW Open House @ LLB	22 Fly n Wheels Open House
23 Wheels of Man Annual Fox Crossing Chili Cookoff	24	25	26 Gorilla Bob/ Island Jack's Pirate's Well Lake Park Bike Nights	27 Turboz/ Ralph's Bike Night	28 Lone Legion Open House	29 Fly n Wheels Open House

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Hermandad MC Annual	2	3	4 Gorilla Bob/ Island Jack's Pirate's Well Lake Park Bike Nights	5 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night Abacoa Howley's Bike Night	6 Black Pistons Open House DAYTONA BIKEWEEK	7 Fly n Wheels Open House DAYTONA BIKEWEEK
8 DAYTONA BIKEWEEK	9 DAYTONA BIKEWEEK	10 DAYTONA BIKEWEEK	11 DAYTONA BIKEWEEK Gorilla Bob/ Island Jack's Pirate's Well Lake Park Bike Nights	12 DAYTONA BIKEWEEK Vintage Iron Bike Night	13 DAYTONA BIKEWEEK AOA WPB Open House	14 DAYTONA BIKEWEEKF ly n Wheels Open House
15 DAYTONA BIKEWEEK- ABATE PB Chapter	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Gorilla Bob/ Island Jack's Pirate's Well Lake Park Bike Nights	19 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night 45th St	20 States LW Open House @ LLB	21 Fly n Wheels Open House USMV MC Chap. 1 Party
22	23	24	25 Gorilla Bob/ Island Jack's Pirate's Well Lake Park Bike Nights	26 Turboz/ Ralph's Bike Night	27 Lone Legion Open House	28 Fly n Wheels Open House
29	30	31				

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 : Information and look under My Districts for your representatives.
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 :

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

DAN "SLOW-MOTION" HENDERSON



PALM BEACH Co. FL House of Representatives

D81 Tina Scott Polsky (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 Garden

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

D87 David Silvers (D)
850-717-5085 Tallahassee
561-352-4824 West Palm Beach

D88 Al Jacquet (D)
850-717-5088 Tallahassee
561-650-6846 West Palm Bch

D89 Mike Caruso (R)
850-717-5089 Tallahassee
561-750-2396 Boca Raton

D90 Joseph A. Casello (D)
850-717-5090 Tallahassee
561-374-7850 Boynton Bch

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

TEN BIG ISSUES TO WATCH DURING THE 2020 SESSION January 6, Christine Sexton Jim Saunders
TALLAHASSEE --- The 2020 legislative session will start Jan. 14 as House and Senate members gather to hear Gov. Ron DeSantis' State of the State address. Lawmakers will take up a wide range of issues during the 60-day session, along with negotiating a budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

Here are 10 big issues to watch during the session:

ABORTION: The Republican-dominated Legislature is considering a controversial proposal that would require parental consent before minors could get abortions. Florida law already requires parents to be notified if their daughters plan to have abortions, but a consent requirement would be more far-reaching. The full House could vote early in the session to approve the proposal, which also is moving forward in Senate committees.

BUDGET: DeSantis has proposed a \$91.4 billion budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, touting plans to set minimum teacher salaries at \$47,500 a year and to continue addressing environmental issues.

DeSantis' proposal is a starting point for the House and Senate, which will make changes as they negotiate a final version. Lawmakers also will consider potential election-year tax cuts, with DeSantis proposing sales-tax "holidays" for back-to-school shoppers and for hurricane preparations.

Palm Beach County FL Senators

D25 Gayle Harrell (R)
850-487-5025 Tallahassee
772-221-4019 Stuart

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 Lori Berman (D)
850-487-5031 Tallahassee
561-292-6014 Boynton

FEDERAL U.S. Senators

[Marco Rubio](#)

[Rick Scott](#)

U.S. HOUSE

District 18

[Brian Mast \(R\)](#)

District 20

[Alcee Hastings](#)

District 21

[Lois Frankel](#)

District 22

[Ted Deutch](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Florida Department of Corrections Secretary Mark Inch has warned that the “status quo is unsustainable” in the state prison system, which faces problems with staffing, health-care costs and crumbling facilities. DeSantis, in part, wants to give pay bumps to many correctional officers to try to help retain them. Lawmakers also are expected during the session to consider a series of proposals that would revamp sentencing laws.

EDUCATION: DeSantis has dubbed 2020 the “year of the teacher,” as he pushes a \$602 million plan to set minimum teacher salaries at \$47,500 and seeks to put in a place a new \$300 million bonus program for teachers and principals. But legislative leaders have expressed concerns about the costs of proposals and what Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, has described as “practical” issues. Those issues include the longstanding practice of teacher salaries being set at the local level rather than at the direction of the Legislature.

ENVIRONMENT: Since taking office last year, DeSantis has focused on trying to address water-quality issues, including toxic algae booms and red tide in Southeast Florida and Southwest Florida. He wants to continue moving ahead with plans to spend hundreds of millions of dollars a year on Everglades restoration and other water-related projects. But lawmakers also will face pressure on issues such as climate change and boosting spending on the Florida Forever conservation program.

HEALTH CARE: So long as Speaker Jose Oliva, R-Miami Lakes, leads the House, revamping the health-care industry will remain a priority. The House this year will continue pushing to allow advanced practice registered nurses to provide care independently of physicians, though the Senate has opposed such proposals in the past. The chambers are looking at making changes related to pharmacy benefit managers, which serve as a sort of middlemen between drug manufacturers and pharmacies. The pharmacy-benefit manager proposals come as lawmakers seek to curb prescription drug prices.

IMMIGRATION: DeSantis has made a priority for this year’s session of requiring businesses to use the federal E-Verify system to prevent undocumented immigrants from getting jobs. Lawmakers during the 2019 session passed another DeSantis priority of banning so-called sanctuary cities. But Galvano has balked at the E-Verify proposal, which also could face major pushback from the state’s agriculture, tourism and construction industries.

INSURANCE: With the growing popularity of genetic testing, lawmakers will consider a proposal that would block insurance companies from using genetic information in making decisions on life-insurance and long-term care policies. Supporters of the proposal point to privacy concerns, but insurers fought the issue during the 2019 session. The insurance industry, meanwhile, is lobbying for a proposal that would prevent auto-glass shops from offering incentives for motorists to make windshield-repair claims.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: The Legislature will closely examine how the state provides Medicaid services to people with developmental and intellectual disabilities and whether an existing program, dubbed the “iBudget,” should be scrapped. The iBudget program is designed, in part, to help people live as independently as possible in their homes or in their communities. But the costs of care annually exceed the amounts of money lawmakers set aside. Also, 21,800 people with disabilities are on a waiting list for services.

VISIT FLORIDA: The future of Visit Florida could be determined during the session, as Oliva continues pushing to eliminate the tourism-marketing agency. Oliva argues the state does not need Visit Florida to draw tourists, but DeSantis and the Senate have backed the agency. Lawmakers during the 2019 session cut Visit Florida’s funding from \$76 million to \$50 million, leading to layoffs. DeSantis has proposed maintaining the agency’s funding at \$50 million in 2020-2021.

THURSTON TAPPED AS FUTURE DEMOCRATIC LEADER January 22, NSF Staff
Florida Senate Democrats have tapped Fort Lauderdale Sen. Perry Thurston as their leader for the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions. Thurston is expected

to take over as Democratic leader after the November 2022 elections, when candidates will run in newly drawn districts because of the once-a-decade redistricting process. "The 2022-2024 term will be a critical time for the state of Florida as new districts are drawn, every seat in the Legislature is up for election, and Democrats continue their push for bolder leadership in the Sunshine State," he said in a prepared statement. Thurston, a criminal defense attorney, has served in the Legislature since 2006, first in the House before moving to the Senate. He is slated to become Democratic leader after Sen. Gary Farmer, D-Fort Lauderdale, holds the post for a two-year term that starts after the 2020 elections. The vote to designate Thurston as Farmer's successor was unanimous, according to a news release from the Senate Democratic Office. When Thurston's two-year term begins, Sen. Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, is expected to take over as the chamber's president. Passidomo had been in a tight race for the leadership position with Sen. Travis Hutson, R-St. Augustine, but she emerged the winner in October. Her presidency is contingent on the GOP holding the Senate majority through the 2020 and 2022 elections.

CONSTITUTION MEASURE RACES TO MEET DEADLINE January 22, NSF Staff

Facing a Feb. 1 petition-signature deadline, backers of a ballot measure that would make it harder to amend the Florida Constitution had tallied 684,437 valid signatures as of Wednesday night, according to the state Division of Elections website. The political committee Keep Our Constitution Clean needs to reach a 766,200-signature total by Feb. 1 to get the measure on the November ballot. The 684,437 total Wednesday represented a nearly 113,000-signature increase over the past two weeks. The proposal would require future constitutional amendments to be approved by voters twice --- instead of once --- to take effect. The committee had received nearly \$9 million in cash and in-kind contributions as of Dec. 31, with all of the contributions coming from the non-profit organization Keep Our Constitution Clean, Inc., finance records show.

WEEKLY ROUNDUP: AND THEY'RE OFF! January 17, 2020 Ana Ceballos

Recap and analysis of the week in state government and politics

TALLAHASSEE --- State lawmakers this week kicked off the 2020 legislative session with an action-packed schedule that featured speeches from Republican leaders, early tension over high-profile issues and a key Florida Supreme Court ruling.

In his State of the State address Tuesday, Gov. Ron DeSantis told legislators that, while much has been done in the last year, there is "much more to do."

"This will require a lot of toil and sweat and it will require not just words, but deeds. We can't rest on past accomplishments," the governor said. "Our only easy day was yesterday."

By Friday morning, the spotlight on Tuesday's opening-day ceremonies and kickoff of the 2020 legislative session was refocused on debates being hashed out in committee rooms.

In five short days, Florida lawmakers had fast-tracked bills to require parental consent for minors' abortions, loosen sentences for certain drug-traffickers and ban local governments from regulating sun-screens.

House panels approved legislation that would make it harder to put constitutional amendments on the ballot and would clear the way for speciality, or "boutique," hospitals.

In the Senate, an education committee on Monday set the stage for DeSantis' teacher-pay plans, even as a sea of educators and students crowded outside the Capitol to protest inadequate funding for the state's public school system.

Republican leaders this week also provided a glimpse into some of the big fights the session might bring.

One clash will revolve around a sweeping gun-control measure, aimed at closing the gun-show “loophole,” that would create a system to track private gun sales. A priority of Senate President Bill Galvano, the National Rifle Association is taking aim at the measure. DeSantis and House Speaker Jose Oliva also expressed skepticism about the bill, putting its future in doubt. Republican leaders also may not see eye-to-eye on immigration, Visit Florida and health care, so get the popcorn ready as the House and Senate square off over those high-profile issues and more during the next 60 days.

OLIVA LASHES OUT AT HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Lashing out at the health-care industry as “robber barons” on the opening day of session, Oliva’s aggressive remarks painted a bleak picture of the industry as putting profits over patients. The Miami Lakes Republican outlined what he considers to be a fix, including allowing advanced practice registered nurses to provide care independently from physicians. It’s not clear, though, that DeSantis or the Senate see things the same way, setting the stage for a potentially contentious back-and-forth over the next weeks. Oliva dedicated a large part of his 18-minute opening day speech in the House to the need to revamp medical professional licensure regulations, which he called “archaic and backward.” He has encouraged lawmakers to allow “health-care professionals to practice to the extent of their training.” Revamping the health-care industry has been a top priority for Oliva in his two years as speaker. He has called for a more free-market approach and helped lead efforts to pass a bill that authorized the state to establish two international drug importation programs, an issue that DeSantis also touched upon in his opening State of the State speech.

AMENDMENT 4 SUPPORTERS FACE SETBACK

Siding with the Republican governor, the Florida Supreme Court decided Thursday that a state law requiring payment of “legal financial obligations” properly carried out a constitutional amendment restoring voting rights to felons who have completed their sentences. The amendment’s “use of the broad phrase ‘all terms of sentence’ can only reasonably be understood to similarly encompass ‘the ultimate sanctions imposed,’ including ‘costs.’ Or in the words of the sponsor’s counsel, the phrase encompasses ‘all obligations’ or ‘all matters,’ ” the court decided.

More than 71 percent of Floridians supported what appeared on the November 2018 ballot as Amendment 4, which granted voting-rights restoration to felons “who have completed all terms of their sentence, including parole or probation,” excluding people “convicted of murder or a felony sexual offense.”

But the meaning of “all terms of their sentence” became a contentious sticking point for the Legislature as it crafted a law to carry out the amendment.

Lawmakers finally settled on a measure requiring felons to pay “legal financial obligations,” such as restitution, fines and fees, to be eligible to have voting rights restored.

But voting-rights groups and civil-rights advocates quickly filed a federal lawsuit challenging the state law, arguing in part that linking voting rights and financial obligations amounts to an unconstitutional “poll tax.”

The justices’ opinion, requested by DeSantis, relied in part on arguments made by proponents of the constitutional amendment when seeking Florida Supreme Court approval to get the measure on the 2018 ballot.

The drafters of the amendment wrote at the time that they “intend that individuals with felony convictions, excluding those convicted of murder or a felony sexual offense, will automatically regain their right to vote upon fulfillment of all obligations imposed under their criminal sentence,” Thursday’s opinion said.

“In other words, the sponsor intended that ‘all terms’ refer to obligations, not durational periods,” the opinion reads.

U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle in October ruled that Florida cannot deny the right to vote to felons who have served their sentences but are “genuinely unable” to pay legal financial obligations. DeSantis’ administration has appealed that ruling.

Thursday’s Florida Supreme Court opinion siding with the state, widely expected by court watchers, came as the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals prepares to hear arguments Jan. 28 in the separate federal lawsuit.

SENATORS BACK CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS The Florida Senate is on the brink of approving a bipartisan bill that would loosen sentencing laws for certain drug-trafficking offenses, a move that has the potential of significantly reducing the state’s prison population.

The measure, which would allow for shorter sentences and more judicial discretion, was unanimously approved Thursday by the Senate Appropriations Committee, the last hurdle before heading to the floor for a full Senate vote.

Senate budget chief Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, said the committee’s overwhelming support of the bill “sends a strong message” about the Senate’s support for criminal justice reform during the 2020 legislative session, which began Tuesday.

But it’s unclear whether the Florida House will embrace the proposed sentencing changes.

Under the new guidelines laid out in Bradley’s measure, judges would be allowed to consider shorter sentences and lower fines for drug-trafficking defendants who meet certain criteria. The bill (SB 346) would also set a maximum incarceration time of 12 months for people who buy or possess less than two grams of a controlled substance, other than fentanyl.

STORY OF THE WEEK: Florida’s 60-day legislative session kicked off Tuesday, with Republican leaders highlighting priorities such as education, health care and public safety.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “To me it is a bright day when we are discussing up to \$900 million in teacher salaries. I know the devil is in the details, but this is the first step and I appreciate you taking this initiative.” --- Sen. Bill Montford, a Tallahassee Democrat who is a former Leon County superintendent of schools, speaking about a measure (SB 1088) that could be the first step toward increasing raising pay for public school teachers.

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT CLEARED FOR NOVEMBER BALLOT Jan 16, Jim Saunders TALLAHASSEE --- Floridians will cast ballots in November on a proposed constitutional amendment that would change wording in the state Constitution about the citizenship of voters.

The state Supreme Court on Thursday unanimously approved placing the amendment, sponsored by the political committee Florida Citizen Voters, on the November ballot. That means voters will decide on at least two ballot initiatives this year, as justices also have signed off on a proposal that would raise the state’s minimum wage.

The Florida Citizen Voters measure would change part of the state Constitution that now says, “Every citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of age and who is a permanent resident of the state, if registered as provided by law, shall be an elector of the county where registered.”

The proposal would change that wording to: “Only a citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of age and who is a permanent resident of the state, if registered as provided by law, shall be an elector of the county where registered.”

In a brief filed in October at the Supreme Court, attorneys for Florida Citizen Voters wrote that the “only object of the proposed amendment is to require United States citizenship to vote in state elections, and the proposed amendment seeks to accomplish that object by directly requiring United States citizenship.”

The Jacksonville-based political committee submitted 928,169 valid petition signatures to the state, far exceeding a 766,200-signature requirement. But it also needed approval from the Supreme Court, which reviews whether proposed amendments meet legal tests such as not being misleading to voters.

The proposal did not draw opposition at the Supreme Court, unlike some initiatives that have spurred battles about ballot wording. Florida Citizen Voters has received more than \$8.2 million in cash and in-kind contributions, which all came from the non-profit group Citizen Voters, Inc.

“Here, no briefs were submitted in opposition to the initiative petition. And our independent review ... yields no basis for concluding that the initiative petition meets the ‘high threshold’ of being ‘clearly and conclusively defective,’” Thursday’s nine-page Supreme Court opinion said, citing terms from court precedent.

The Supreme Court last month approved the proposed minimum-wage amendment, which has been spearheaded by prominent Orlando attorney John Morgan. The proposal would increase the state’s minimum wage to \$10 an hour on Sept. 30, 2021 and increase it by \$1 each year until it hits \$15 an hour on Sept. 30, 2026. The state’s minimum wage this year is \$8.56 an hour.

The citizenship measure will appear on the ballot as Amendment 1, while the minimum-wage proposal will appear as Amendment 2, according to the state Division of Elections website. Each would need approval of 60 percent of voters to pass.

The Supreme Court this month also rejected one proposed constitutional amendment because of what it said was a misleading ballot summary. That amendment would have overhauled the state’s electric-utility industry.

BACKROOM BRIEFING: A ROBUSTLY RESTRAINED TAX PACKAGE? Jan. 16, Jim Turner TALLAHASSEE --- House Speaker Jose Oliva talked during his opening-day address Tuesday about working “to once again pass a budget with a reduced per-capita spending, a robust tax break and a stronger commitment to our reserve balances.”

However, “robust” remains a speculative term. Any tax package out of the House will have to wait until lawmakers get a better sense of the state’s finances.

“I can’t guarantee that when all the dust has settled, we will get everything that we want ... (But) if we have excess income, it is not our job to find a way to spend it,” Oliva said Tuesday after helping launch the 60-day session. “If we can return that to the taxpayer. It’s important that we do.”

And don’t call the annual tax package a tax break, rather a redistribution, according to Oliva, R-Miami Lakes.

“I’m truly concerned about having a flood of money,” Oliva said. “The economy’s been great. Every time that we have too much money, we find a new way to spend that money. And then when an economic slowdown comes, we’re put in a tough situation. Well, if we can guide the state as we have with fiscal restraint and (remain) steady as we go, whenever those slowdowns come our leaders would be able to deal with them and make them more shallow and recover quicker.”

On Wednesday, state economists offered slightly improved tax-revenue numbers for the state, pushing back a forecast economic slowdown from the first part of this year to the summer as they envision housing and construction to further weaken.

Gov. Ron DeSantis has asked for a tax package that features \$65 million in savings for shoppers through an eight-day back-to-school tax “holiday” on clothing, school supplies and personal computers and a 10-day tax holiday to help prepare for the hurricane season.

Another \$247.3 million reduction is calculated into DeSantis’ proposal by adjusting property-tax rates related to the “required local effort” in the Florida Education Finance Program, which is the state’s main school-funding formula.

Lawmakers during the 2019 session crafted a \$121 million tax package that included back-to-school and

disaster-preparedness tax holidays. The package also trimmed a sales tax on commercial leases and provided measures to assist farmers who sustained damage in Hurricane Michael.

STUDYING THE STUDIES Senate Infrastructure and Security Chairman Tom Lee, R-Thonotosassa, continued to tout a bill (SB 7016) out of his committee that would set up a nine-member Sea-Level Rise Task Force, as environmentalists demand more immediate action on climate-change issues.

“A lot of what I hope they’ll do is pull together what already exists and try to get their head around what already exists validated,” Lee said Tuesday, a day after the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee backed the bill. “There’s some different estimates out there. . . . We have 1,300 miles of coastline. We have a lot of scientists here looking at the global issue of sea-level rise. So, a lot of what they may be able to do is just draw on the existing research. But I think we need to have a state policy that we can point to when we’re passing legislation.”

The task force would have until January 2021 to reach baseline projections on anticipated sea-level rise and flooding impacts along Florida’s coastline, under the bill sought by DeSantis.

On Monday, Sierra Club Florida remained one of DeSantis’ strongest critics on environmental issues, giving him a “D” grade for his overall efforts. The governor’s freshman-year mark was pushed down, in part, because of what the group views as ineffective water-quality plans involving springs and rivers.

Also, it pointed to DeSantis signing a bill last year that authorized three new or extended toll roads across rural Florida and further watering down of growth-management oversight.

Sierra Club Florida Chapter Director Frank Jackalone said DeSantis could have done better if a comprehensive climate-change plan was in place when the governor appointed the state’s first chief resilience officer last summer.

“The ship’s going down. We have to protect everybody in the process,” Jackalone said. “There’s only so long that you can build the sea wall before we lose the state. What we need is a comprehensive plan to address the root causes of climate change.”

Jackalone said DeSantis is more open to acknowledging climate change than former Gov. Rick Scott but said the bar wasn’t high.

“I was the first to say that he’s done more for Florida’s environment in a week, in a couple of days, then Rick Scott got done in eight years. He has done more than Rick Scott. It’s just not enough. Far more needs to be done,” Jackalone said.

‘INTRICATE’ ART UNVEILED A blue-lit piece of confiscated pecky cypress, carved into a rendering of Florida, now adorns a wall that greets guests to the fifth-floor public seating gallery of the Senate. Senate President Bill Galvano unveiled the piece by Tallahassee artist Barry Miller titled “Resilience” before the 2020 session started Tuesday.

“The wood has its natural contours,” Galvano explained. “If you look at the detail, he has captured significant water bodies, including things like the St. Johns River. Certainly, Lake Okeechobee. He’s got the Manatee River coming off the Southwest Coast. It’s really an intricate piece of work and something we can be proud of.”

Miller, whose work also can be found at Tallahassee International Airport and the Wakulla Springs Lodge, was paid \$49,336 by the Senate for the piece, which took about four months to complete.

The more-than-a-century-old wood was recovered several years ago by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission after being illegally removed from the bottom of the Ocklawaha River.

The wall outside the Senate gallery had been bare since the Senate underwent an \$6 million renovation in 2016 that included removing a “Five Flags” mural that had been at the public entrance since 1979.

The mural, by artist Renee Faure, is now on display at the at First National Bank in downtown Perry.

TWEET OF THE WEEK: “@GovRonDeSantis prolonged speech about environmental spending seems to directly contradict @RepJoseOliva’s ‘spending is not caring’ message.” --- Rep. Carlos

Guillermo Smith (@CarlosGSmith), an Orlando Democrat.

BOLD' PLANS January 14, 2020 Jim Saunders

TALLAHASSEE --- Gov. Ron DeSantis formally started the 2020 legislative session Tuesday by urging lawmakers to boost pay for many public-school teachers, continue addressing Everglades restoration and water quality and curb business regulations.

DeSantis used his annual State of the State address to tout taking a “bold step” by setting a minimum salary of \$47,500 for teachers, a \$602 million proposal that will be a key issue during the 60-day session.

“This will make it easier to get talented college graduates to enter the profession and will help us retain many of the good teachers we have now,” DeSantis said during the 34-minute address. “My plan will lead to a substantial pay increase for over 100,000 current teachers throughout the state.”

The teacher-pay plan, however, has drawn questions from Republican and Democratic legislative leaders. About an hour before DeSantis’ speech, House Speaker Jose Oliva, R-Miami Lakes, addressed lawmakers and said the House “pledges to work towards a significant, equitable and sustainable proposal that can also accommodate wage increases in other critical areas” --- stopping short of a full endorsement of DeSantis’ plan.

Senate Minority Leader Audrey Gibson, D-Jacksonville, issued a response to the DeSantis speech and said the minimum-pay plan would leave out higher-paid teachers and other school employees.

“Thousands of education support personnel, all in critical components of Florida’s public education system --- staffing libraries, guiding students, cleaning buildings, and driving buses --- know the governor’s plan is neither bold nor fresh since none of them are considered in his teacher pay plan,” Gibson said.

The State of the State address came amid the traditional backdrop of a flower-filled House chamber as lawmakers prepare for a two-month sprint to pass bills and a budget. Lawmakers frequently interrupted DeSantis with applause as he outlined what were largely a familiar set of priorities.

Since taking office last January, DeSantis has focused heavily on Everglades restoration and water problems such as toxic algae and red tide in waterways and coastal areas of Southeast Florida and Southwest Florida. He called for lawmakers Tuesday to continue the efforts, including spending at least \$625 million annually for the next three years on Everglades and water projects.

“This will provide needed certainty for these key initiatives and will help us leverage even more federal support,” he said.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, on Monday proposed a bill (SB 1878) that would carry out DeSantis’ spending proposal. The bill would require spending \$625 million a year through June 30, 2023 --- the end of four state fiscal years under DeSantis.

But Rep. Evan Jenne, D-Dania Beach, took a shot at DeSantis’ focus on the environment.

“It’s been nice to see the Republican Party here in Florida finally get interested in environmental protection, which is a good thing. But, really, it’s been a very mixed bag. It’s very hard to call yourself an environmentalist, when you are simultaneously allowing oil exploration drilling in the Apalachicola River Basin,” Jenne said, referring to a drilling issue in Northwest Florida.

DeSantis also used the address to focus on frequent themes of Republicans, including eliminating “Common Core” standards in education, holding down taxes and pitching a deregulation plan that would reduce occupational licensing requirements on professions such as barbers and interior designers.

“Our citizens shouldn’t need a permission slip from the government in order to earn a living,” he said.

DeSantis also briefly touched on support for a controversial proposal that would require parental consent before minors can have abortions. The proposal is ready for a vote in the full House and is scheduled to go before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday.

He also alluded to a priority of remaking the Florida Supreme Court, which long frustrated state Repub-

lican leaders. DeSantis appointed three justices last January to immediately make the court more conservative. Two of those appointees --- Robert Luck and Barbara Lagoa --- were subsequently tapped by President Donald Trump for seats on a federal appeals court.

DeSantis made clear his upcoming picks to replace Luck and Lagoa will have the same judicial bent.

“In our system of government, courts play an important role, but it is a role that must remain judicial in nature; when courts exercise legislative authority, they pervert the Constitution and undermine the rule of law,” he said.

--- News Service Assignment Manager Tom Urban contributed to this report.

SENATE PANEL BACKS GUN CONTROL MEASURE January 13, 2020 Dara Kam

TALLAHASSEE --- Over the objections of the National Rifle Association, a Senate panel Monday unanimously signed off on a far-reaching measure that would close the gun-show “loophole,” create a record-keeping system for private gun sales and set aside \$5 million to establish a “statewide strategy for violence prevention.”

The proposal (SB 7028) is a priority of Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, as evidenced by the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee’s consideration and passage of the measure the day before the 2020 legislative session begins.

The sweeping legislation would require background checks and a three-day waiting period for firearms sold “on property to which the public has the right of access,” such as “a flea market, a gun show, or a firearm exhibit.”

The measure would also mandate that guns be securely stored in households and other places where minors under age 18 --- up from the current threshold of 16 --- could have access to the weapons.

The bill also would create a new section of law that would require guns to be stored to prevent access “by a person of unsound mind.”

And the proposal would impose new requirements for private gun sales. Under the measure, individuals who sell guns to other people would be required to fill out a form that would include the name, date of birth and identification information of the purchaser. The affidavit, which would include background questions aimed at ensuring the purchaser is eligible to buy a gun, would have to be notarized.

The measure contains “the worst universal background check language I have ever seen,” Marion Hammer, the NRA’s Florida lobbyist and a former president of the national gun-rights organization, told the Senate panel.

“It appears to be an actual attempt to ban private sales through red tape and fear,” she said. “Asking average citizens to create what amounts to a government form and get it notarized is ridiculous.”

The legislation is “nothing less than gun control on steroids,” Hammer said.

But committee Chairman Tom Lee, R-Thonotosassa, said the legislation “just makes sense.”

The Senate’s proposal comes as mass shootings in Florida and throughout the nation continue to rise. At least 81 people have died in mass shootings scattered throughout Florida over the past three years.

In 2018, the Legislature for the first time in decades passed a handful of gun-control measures after a massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland that killed 17 students and faculty members and injured 17 others.

Lee, a former Senate president, said he empathized with gun owners who are exercising their Second Amendment rights.

“I know that you don’t see NRA members in the headlines of these mass shootings,” he told reporters following Monday’s meeting. “But we have a job to do. We can’t just sit by idly while our children are killing children and pretend this isn’t happening.”

While the Senate measure is a Galvano priority, it lacks a companion measure in the House. Lee said House leaders are “well aware we’re working on this.”

"Frankly, a lot of this is going to happen president-to-speaker and work down from there. But they're very well aware that this is a priority for the president," he said.

Lee's committee also signed off on a resolution condemning white nationalism and white supremacy "as hateful, dangerous, and morally corrupt and affirming that such philosophies are contradictory to the values that define the people of Florida."

The resolution lists a number of mass shootings that targeted Jewish and African-American worshippers.

But David Caulkett, a Pompano Beach man who identified himself as belonging to the group "Floridians for Immigration Enforcement," called the proposal racist.

"This resolution is mostly an opportunity for liberals to smear conservatives," Caulkett told the panel. But Jeff Binkley, whose daughter Maura was killed when a gunman opened fire at a Tallahassee yoga studio last year, said he was "heartened" by the committee's direction. Gunman Scott Beierle, who also killed a Florida State University professor before shooting himself, had a long history of hating women.

The man who shot his daughter "was a member of the misogynist, incel (involuntary celibacy) subculture," Binkley told the committee. The yoga studio victims "were selected and targeted for no other reason than being women," he said.

"There are a number of dangerous hate groups that pose a threat to the public safety, to the safety of each of us," Binkley added.

"These groups may be racially motivated, religiously motivated, motivated around gender," he said. "But violent hate groups all undermine society and its basic values in the same way."

TOUGHER GUN LAWS COULD CAUSE LEGISLATIVE DIVIDE January 8, Dara Kam
TALLAHASSEE --- Orlando's Pulse nightclub. The Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. A Sebring bank. A yoga studio in Tallahassee. A naval air base in Pensacola.

At least 81 people have been killed in mass shootings scattered throughout Florida since 2016, and the death toll keeps rising from other gun violence that, in some pockets of the state, has become almost the norm.

As state lawmakers prepare for Tuesday's start of the 60-day legislative session, Republicans are split on how --- or even if --- to address one of the nation's most divisive political and policy issues: guns. Two years ago, the Republican-dominated Legislature passed gun-control laws for the first time in decades. The hastily approved measures came just weeks after the horrific 2018 Valentine's Day massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that left 17 students and faculty members dead and another 17 people injured.

Now, Senate President Bill Galvano, who played a major role in crafting the 2018 legislation, wants to go further and shut down what he and many other people consider loopholes in state laws regarding background checks and gun sales.

"There are myriad things in play, but the background checks are very much being looked at," Galvano, R-Bradenton, told The News Service of Florida in a recent interview.

Galvano pointed to what is known as the "gun-show loophole," which allows people who buy firearms to avoid the three-day waiting period and background check required when guns are purchased from federally licensed dealers.

"I think we need to really take a look at that," he said.

The Senate also could consider "some modifications" to the "red flag law," which was part of the legislation spurred by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting.

The law allows guns to be removed from people found to pose a threat to themselves or others. Under

the statute, law enforcement officials can seize weapons after obtaining “risk protection” orders from judges.

Some states allow family members, school administrators or health care professionals to directly petition courts to remove guns from people who pose a threat.

According to the Office of the State Courts Administrator, Florida’s red-flag law has been used more than 2,400 times since it went into effect in mid-2018. Judges overwhelmingly have approved the requests, according to court filings.

But while Galvano might back enhancements to the red-flag law or other gun-control measures, the House is likely to thwart any efforts perceived as anti-gun, especially in an election year.

“They (House members) are very pro-Second Amendment and they’re going to be very hostile towards gun control or gun restrictions because they know that gun control and gun restrictions aren’t the answer,” state Rep. Anthony Sabatini, R-Howey-in-the-Hills, told the News Service in a telephone interview.

Such restrictions “don’t actually decrease crime, anywhere,” he added.

Sabatini is sponsoring two controversial gun measures. The first would allow people to openly carry guns without concealed-weapons licenses. The second would allow individuals to bring guns onto college campuses.

“There’s no rational relationship” between gun violence and gun-control laws, Sabatini said, expressing an opinion shared by many of his House Republican colleagues.

“It’s what I call a red herring,” Sabatini, a lawyer, said.

Rep. Cord Byrd, a Neptune Beach Republican and attorney who specializes in Second Amendment law, said Florida, like other states, has plenty of statutes governing firearms.

“Most of the time when we pass new gun legislation, because there’s a ton of law already on the books, it ends up infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens,” Byrd told the News Service. “The criminals by definition are going to break the law anyway.”

Byrd, whose clients includes people fighting risk protection orders, said Florida’s red-flag law has “got problems.”

“It needs to be fixed. It does not need to be expanded,” he said. “It’s ruined people’s lives. People have lost jobs. I’m not saying we don’t need a mechanism in place, but the mechanism we have now needs to be improved.

Byrd also said expanding background checks for gun sales --- which he said results in litigation that comprises the bulk of his work --- isn’t the solution, either.

The background checks “are only as good as the data” in the state and national databases used to conduct the screenings, Byrd said.

“There are a lot of people that have to hire an attorney to get mistakes that are in the background system fixed,” he said. “It sounds good, but time after time after time in these shootings these are people that have passed the background check.”

Galvano’s not only facing resistance from the House.

Marion Hammer, the National Rifle Association’s longtime Florida lobbyist, scoffed when asked if the gun-show loophole should be addressed.

“There is no gun show loophole. That term is nothing more than a stalking horse for imposing a myriad of gun-control measures that deny due process to law-abiding citizens for the convenience of government,” Hammer, a former national president of the NRA, said in a telephone interview. “The gun-show loophole term is used to apply to anything that people who hate guns want to do connected to background checks.”

Echoing Byrd, Hammer said officials are failing to enforce laws that are already on the books.

For example, she said it is a federal felony for people to sell a gun or give a gun to a person they know or reasonably should know is not eligible to purchase or possess a firearm.

“So any private citizen who sells a gun to a person they don’t know is an idiot,” Hammer said. “So the name of the game is enforce the laws you have. Quit passing more laws that won’t be enforced because they’re only put on the books for political eyewash or to deny law-abiding citizens their constitutional rights.”

Byrd suggested Florida lawmakers could consider addressing what he called “stranger-to-stranger” gun sales, but also stopped short of advocating for broader background checks.

“I caution people, be very, very careful when you sell your firearms,” he said.

Galvano, also an attorney, acknowledged that gun-related legislation “is a balance, legally, constitutionally, and frankly, politically.”

In Florida, disparaged as the “Gunshine State” by critics, passing measures that would restrict gun rights will be a heavy lift, conceded the Senate president, who is entering his final session at the podium.

“As a practical lawmaker who wants to have solutions and solve problems, I also am very much aware of what the political dynamics are and would rather pursue solutions that actually have a chance of becoming law and that can be applied, as opposed to just making political statements,” he said.

BILL WOULD ALLOW LOCAL OFFICIALS TO BE ARMED January 8, NSF Staff

Local elected officials in Florida could bring guns to government meetings, but people appearing before them would remain unable to carry weapons, under a bill filed Wednesday. The proposal (SB 1524) by Sen. George Gainer, R-Panama City, would change a law that prohibits people from bringing guns to government meetings. The bill would create an exception to allow members of county commissions, municipal boards, school boards or special district boards to pack heat at their meetings if they have concealed weapons licenses. A similar exemption exists for judges in their courtrooms. The state bans carrying concealed weapons at places such as police and sheriff’s stations, jails, courthouses, polling places, colleges, professional sporting events and bars. Rep. Mel Ponder, R-Destin, filed a similar bill (HB 183) in September. The bills are filed for the 2020 legislative session, which starts Tuesday. Gainer is a former longtime member of the Bay County Commission, while Ponder is running this year for an Okaloosa County Commission seat.



ABATE of FL Inc Palm Beach Chapter

Chapter Meeting - VFW Post 4243, 2404 Broadway, Riviera Beach Jan, 19, 2020
Called to order: 11:35 am Start with Pledge Allegiance and moment of silence. Members 14, guests 2

PRESIDENT: Curtis Alva. Our December event was a success with good support from clubs (Mil. Vets, Llana, SE ABATE and Council). Due to big case Curtis will be on the road and busy with it for the next few years so will not be able to run for President in June. Snooze and LB did a good job getting the Anchor Inn.

VICE PRESIDENT: John Valiquette. Southeast ABATE annual after our meeting

SECRETARY: Florrie Wilcox. No corrections, additions to last month's minutes as in the newsletter, accepted

TREASURER: Suzanne Sequin. Event helped get our budget in the green

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Pete Carroll. The South Florida Fair Bike Parade will have two nights Wednesdays Jan 22 and 29. Meeting spot will be the Marathon gas station on Weisman Way (Process Dr) off 441/SR7 at 5:30 with 5:50 ride to staging areas. Cost is \$5 and we will try to go both days

MEMBERSHIP: Suzanne Sequin. We need to increase membership. We now have the cards if needed. We continue to collect the ADD insurance cards to store at state office

LEGISLATIVE: Dan Henderson. Full report in this newsletter. They are thirteen bills on guns. Will be at Capital to visit legislative offices

SAFETY: Dan Henderson. Thanks to Harold and Bill Black for doing table at our events. Will look into doing more bike nights. Paperwork done for our event, 80 signed in. Sheets sent to State Office.

DELEGATE: Ken Gerecke. Full report in this newsletter with Florie's report too as Slo Mo stayed to setup event. The helmet bill memorial silver coin might be \$45 dollars and less for gold

PR/WEB/NEWSLETTER: Dan Henderson, Still searching for a bulk email client

PRODUCTS: Kathy Hale. absent

OLD BUSINESS: no old business with event done

NEW BUSINESS: President Curtis will not be running so need people to step up. Nominations will start at March meeting, election in June. So get involved. March meeting will stay on 3rd Sunday even though last day of Bikeweek.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Dania Beach vintage bike show Jan. 25. Door prize photo frame won by Slo Mo. 50/50 won by Foxy Babe AGAIN

TIME OF ADJOURNMENT: 12:05

PHOTOS FROM SOUTHEAST ABATE EVENT 1-19-2020



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 530944, Lake Park, FL 33403**

Another benefit of chapter membership in ABATE of FL Palm Beach is having a free business card in newsletter and free newsletter classified for items to sell or acquire. Support your brothers and sisters when possible, Besides a \$4.000 ADD insurance policy, discount Leslie Kay insurance, we are looking into other benefits for members. We are always in need of more paid advertisers so find any business to benefit from our low rates and support our newsletter and chapter.

A.D.D. INSURANCE POLICY UPDATE

We all realize the \$4,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance policy 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, and attach your check or money order and mail to:

ABATE — Palm Beach Chapter

PO Box 530944 Lake Park FL 33403

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

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

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 \$

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

SIGNATURE Date:

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

palmbeach.abateflorida.com

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Next Palm Beach Chapter Meeting VFW POST 4143

3rd Sunday Feb. 16 , 2020 11:30

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.**

Support the VFW by having breakfast 9 am to Noon

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.