

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. PALM BEACH CHAPTER



THE **Chrome Chronicles**



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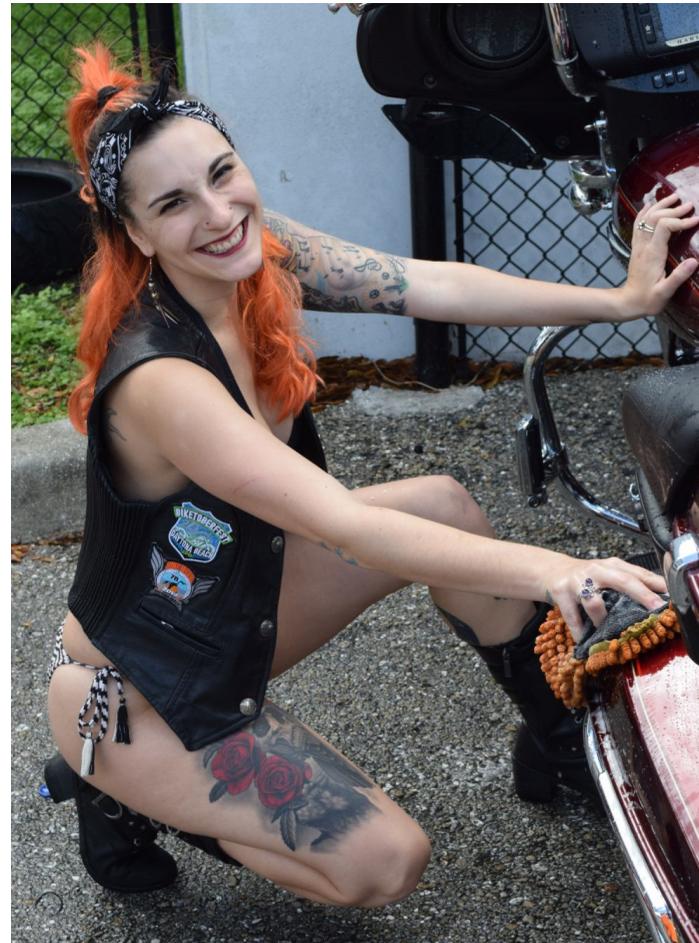


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**NEXT CHAPTER
MEETING
11:30 AM
3rd Sunday
March 15**

**CHECK TWICE
FOR MOTORCYCLES**

**LET THOSE
WHO RIDE
DECIDE!**



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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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President's Message

Curtis Alva

It's been a great ride. I have been President 2 years and love this job. Unfortunately, I taken a new job and will be spending most of my time for the next year or so out of state and sometimes out of the country. This means that I cannot run for another term. i have notified State ABATE and our Chapter. I hope to be back again when this job is over. So this means that we need someone else to step up and take the job of President. It's a lot of work at times, but it is the best kind of work, serving our brother and sister bikers. It is also a lot of respect. Respect that is dedicated to Presidents only.

Additionally, we need a whole new board. Our VP, LB, has served ABATE for years. He has done a great job in every aspect and now is moving into an MC. It's a tough process for an old hand like LB, who is used to running things, but he is a tough guy and we wish him well. But his leaving means that we have to replace him. The VP job is broad, handling everything that needs doing and filling in for the President whenever needed.

Our Treasurer, SushiQ, jumped in when our prior Treasurer couldn't serve any more and she did it with style and enthusiasm. She also helped with membership and event planning and is a Harley Angel. But now she has to slow down and leave the job. The Treasurer's job requires money skills and computer skills and we need one. Our chapter has to have at least 3 officers to keep our charter: Pres, VP and Treasurer. If we don't fill these posts, we will lose our Chapter.

We also need to replace our secretary, Half Pint, who everyone knows and loves, our sergeant-at-arms, Petee, and our Membership Trustee. These are good jobs and a great way to help.

Please Step up and come to our next meeting and pick your favorite job and get busy helping ABATE and our Chapter.

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



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UPCOMING Event Schedule

Sunday March 1 Hermandad MC Annual

Wed March 4 - Gorilla Bob's Island Jack's, and Pirates Well Lake Park Bike Nights

Thurs. March 5- Abacoa Bike Night PB Harley 7-10, , Howley's Bike Night

Friday March 6 Black Piston's Open House

March 6 to 15 Daytona Bikeweek

Saturday March 7 Burn Up Company Bikes & Coffee 9am to 1pm 500 Palm St. WPB

Wed March 11 Gorilla Bob's Island Jack's, and Pirates Well Lake Park Bike Nights

Thurs. March 12 Vintage Iron Bike Night

Friday March 13 AOA WPB Open House

March 14 Asphalt Angels Cer, Jeep, Truck and Motorcycle Show (flyer next page)

3rd **Sunday** March 15 — **Palm Beach Chapter Meeting ABATE of FL. Inc.** 11:30 am V.F.W. Post 4143 located at 2404 Broadway, Riviera Beach 561-844-5718. From I 95 exit Blue Heron Blvd. go east to Broadway (Federal Hwy., US- 1) turn right, go south 1 block the V.F.W. is on the east side. Look for the flag. Breakfast will be served 9:00 AM 'til Noon

Sunday Feb 16 AOA Broward Annual

Wed March 18 Gorilla Bob's Island Jack's, and Pirates Well Lake Park Bike Nights

Thurs. March 19 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night 45th St Hot Rods & Harley with Bikini Contest round 2

Friday March 20 States MC Lake Worth Open House @ LLB

Sat. March 21 USMV Chap 1 Party Broward

Wed March 25 Gorilla Bob's Island Jack's, and Pirates Well Lake Park Bike Nights

Thurs. March 25 Turboz Custom Cycles Bike Night 7-10 PM Ralph's Stand Up Bar Jupiter

Friday March 27- Lone Legion Brotherhood Open House

REMINDER: EVERY

Wed Nights Gorilla Motors 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

Deli Inn Diner
 BREAKFAST - LUNCH - DINNER

Asphalt Angels
Car, Truck, Jeep
and Motorcycle Show

Saturday, March 14, 2020
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

1494 South Military Trail,
 West Palm Beach
 (just north of Forest Hill)

www.asphaltangelsclub.com



The Asphalt Angels, Inc., is a Registered 501 (c.7) Non-Profit. Proceeds donated to local charities such as PBSO Explorer Program, Vetsville Cease Fire House, and more. Details at www.asphaltangelsclub.com

MARCH 28
12PM - 4PM

VFW RIDERS
 PRESENTS THE

10TH ANNUAL
BLESSING
OF THE BIKES

354 10TH ST. LAKE PARK, FL 32403 - (561) 842-9110

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Entertainment is provided by **RYAN HEALY**
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BLESSING OF THE BIKES AT 1:30PM
RAFFLE AT 3:00PM

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79TH ANNUAL
Bike Week
 WORLD'S LARGEST MOTORCYCLE EVENT
2020

Bike Week 2020
March 6 - 15
 DAYTONA BEACH, FL

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.

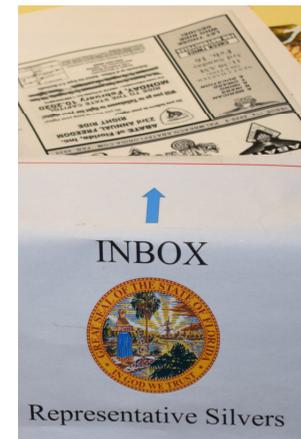
On the local level our members get out the vote and support candidates who are sympathetic to our issues. We also will endeavor to lobby local governments whenever there are issues that need to be addressed, affecting local motorcycle use, ownership, and any discrimination that may result from said use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



ADVANCES: WEEK OF MARCH 8, 2020 March 6, 2020 NSF Staff

TALLAHASSEE --- When the legislative session started Jan. 14, lawmakers faced a menu of big issues.

Passing a budget. Increasing teacher salaries. Cleaning up waterways. Fixing problems in the prison system. Revamping health-care laws. Deciding whether to keep Visit Florida. The list went on.

And as the session enters its final scheduled week, lawmakers still need to resolve most of the big issues.

That's the way every legislative session goes: The wheeling and dealing happens at the end.

But that also means an often-messy, frantic final week.

Legislative leaders have already said this year's session likely will need a little extra time because of delays in negotiating a budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, which starts July 1. Finalizing a budget will be the Legislature's most-important job during the coming week.

The fate of dozens of other bills, however, also will be determined, with many lawmakers and lobbyists celebrating victories --- and others vowing to try again next year.

EXPRESSWAY DISPUTE HEARD: A panel of the 1st District Court of Appeal will hear arguments in a constitutional battle about a 2019 law aimed at making major changes in the operation of expressways in Miami-Dade County. The Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida House took the case to the appeals court. The law, which passed last spring after heavy debate among Miami-Dade County legislators, called for abolishing the long-standing Miami-Dade County Expressway Authority and replacing it with a new entity called the Greater Miami Expressway Agency. The expressway authority quickly filed a multi-count lawsuit challenging the measure. Leon County Circuit Judge John Cooper in August ruled that the new law was unconstitutional because it violated Miami-Dade County's home-rule powers. The state has argued in the appeal the lawsuit should be dismissed, in part because the Miami-Dade County Expressway Authority didn't have legal standing to file the constitutional challenge and doesn't have power to continue the case because the authority was dissolved under the law. (Tuesday, 2 p.m., 1st District Court of Appeal, 2000 Drayton Dr., Tallahassee.)

BUDGET TALKS GET UNDERWAY SATURDAY March 6, Christine Sexton, Dara Kam, Jim Turner

TALLAHASSEE --- With lawmakers preparing to go into overtime to pass a budget, formal negotiations on the spending plan will get underway Saturday afternoon, House and Senate leaders announced late Friday.

House and Senate conference committees on various parts of the budget will have until Monday afternoon to iron out differences. Unresolved issues then would move to Senate Appropriations Chairman Rob Bradley and House Appropriations Chairman Travis Cummings, both Fleming Island Republicans, to try to work out.

The annual legislative session is scheduled to end March 13, but lawmakers are expected to require an extra day or two to approve the final budget plan.

Lawmakers have to close gaps on numerous policy issues, including the House's proposal to use affordable-housing money for other parts of the budget; differences in health-care spending; and a disagreement about how much money to spend on the Florida Forever land-preservation program.

The House initially proposed a \$91.37 billion budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1, while the Senate fiscal plan came in at \$92.83 billion. Both top the record \$90.98 billion spend-

ing plan for the current year, which ends June 30.

Oliva, addressing reporters after a floor session Friday, said “we’re close” on pay increases for teachers and state workers but didn’t elaborate.

“I think we (the House and Senate) both understand they’re important things, and we both made a commitment early on that we were going to address those issues,” Oliva said.

Gov. Ron DeSantis has made a top priority of setting a minimum salary of \$47,500 for public-school teachers, a plan that would cost \$602 million. He also wants to spend \$300 million on a new bonus program for teachers and principals, with a focus on educators who work in schools in low-income areas.

The Senate proposed spending \$500 million to raise teacher salaries, while the House offered \$650 million. Neither chamber proposed money for bonuses.

One area that may already have been settled involves the tourism-marketing agency Visit Florida, which appears set to remain open for at least another year.

“They really are an amazing marketing company, they have made us believe that they should exist,” said Oliva, a Miami Lakes Republican who has long questioned the effectiveness of Visit Florida, which received \$50 million in state funding during the current fiscal year.

The tourism-marketing agency has seen its stock rise the past few weeks as the state responds to the coronavirus.

One issue that won’t be resolved before the session ends is reaching a gambling agreement with the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

House and Senate leaders were trying to close out a deal to recoup at least \$350 million the state lost when the tribe ceased a revenue-sharing payments last spring.

Oliva and Senate President Bill Galvano in recent days have expressed optimism that an agreement could be reached between the House, the Senate, the tribe and DeSantis.

Oliva remained upbeat about the issue Friday evening but said a deal wouldn’t be finalized any time soon.

The Legislature could come back for a special session to address the issue, he told reporters.

“There’s a possibility. We won’t be able to get it done in the next week. But there’s a real interest in getting it done. A lot of good conversations have been had. So it’s possible we could come back,” Oliva said.

In terms of health care spending, the House and Senate have agreed to allocate \$10.596 billion in state general-revenue money across health and social-service agencies, which include the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Elder Affairs, the Department of Health and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

That agreed-to amount comes in below the \$10.627 billion the Senate had proposed but more than the \$10.54 billion that the House had offered. The ultimate amount spent on health and human services is far larger than the general-revenue amount because the programs also receive such things as federal Medicaid matching dollars.

Among the issues lawmakers will have to hammer out is whether to shift \$57.3 million away from hospitals that provide the largest amounts of Medicaid services and direct a portion of the money to increasing base Medicaid rates for all hospitals.

To end the session by March 13, lawmakers would have to finish the budget by Tuesday because of a legally required 72-hour review period. Oliva and Galvano made clear this

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week they did not think that would happen, requiring overtime.

Lawmakers also have gone long in other recent years, and Oliva pointed to efforts to enact broad policy issues.

“If you really look at the last few sessions, they’ve been very policy heavy,” Oliva said. “One particular session where we had an issue, it was the issue of Medicaid expansion. That was an explosive issue between the two chambers. But I do think that what is causing the delay is getting into an agreement when you’re dealing with a lot of policy. It takes time. It’s a lot of people on either side that have to kind of come to an agreement.”

WEEKLY ROUNDUP: CLEAN HANDS AND HAIL MARY AMENDMENTS March 6, Dara Kam

TALLAHASSEE --- Wash your hands. Cover your face when you sneeze. Stay away from sick people.

Advice grandmothers have been dishing out for ages is popping up on posters, Twitter and public service announcements, as health officials race to contain an outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease, known as COVID-19.

After a rocky start, Gov. Ron DeSantis is holding daily news conferences throughout the state to reassure Floridians that officials are prepared for the potential pandemic.

The outbreak of the deadly disease coincides with the waning days of the 2020 legislative session, meaning lawmakers could pump extra money into the state’s efforts to combat the virus, which is spreading within the Sunshine State.

Frightened citizens are snapping up hand sanitizer and face masks amid international travel bans, sparking trepidation about COVID-19’s impact on Florida’s tourism-based economy.

But concerns about the virus didn’t stop Capitol insiders from wheeling and dealing on the fourth floor outside the House and Senate chambers.

With the scheduled end of the 60-day session just a week away, the activity is escalating. Hail Mary amendments are being filed as lobbyists attempt to resurrect dying bills before the session concludes.

Those who are racing the clock may have a reprieve: The House speaker and Senate president indicated this week that the session may run into overtime to finish the new state budget.

With behind-the-doors deals being cut, rumors about when the session will end --- as well as issues such as the budget, a gambling deal and a major health care scope-of-practice measure --- have to be time-stamped.

And while the activity approaches a climax, the Capitol has plenty of sinks and soap, as well as more than a few hand-sanitizer stations, within reach.

STAY HOME IF YOU’RE SICK The Republican governor on Thursday said the federal government will send “tens of thousands” of novel coronavirus testing kits to the state and asked people not to purchase a type of tight-fitting mask to protect themselves from the contagion.

DeSantis, speaking to reporters during an appearance in Gadsden County, also announced that five more people had tested positive for COVID-19. That brought to nine the number of Florida-related coronavirus cases, a total that includes one non-Florida resident who is being detained in the state.

And it appeared likely the number would continue climbing.

One of the new cases involved a 72-year-old Santa Rosa County man with underlying medical conditions who had recently traveled abroad. DeSantis said during the Gadsden County appearance that the Florida Department of Health was conducting an investigation but

that the man is “not in shape to fully answer all the questions.”

DeSantis also asked people to refrain from purchasing what are known as N95 masks, a type of tight-fitting mask, as a precautionary measure to prevent COVID-19 infection.

“For just the average person going to Amazon and buying a mask, that is not what you need to be doing. The CDC (federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) has been very clear on that. In fact, if you put the mask on, you are more likely to be fiddling around your face and actually you may be more likely to transmit the virus if you are in contact with it,” DeSantis said. “Those really need to be used for health-care professionals that are treating patients.”

THE STATE IS COMING FOR YOU The hotseat for an embattled domestic violence agency and its onetime chief, Tiffany Carr, is getting hotter.

DeSantis’ administration and Attorney General Ashley Moody on Wednesday took legal action against the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, accusing the group’s leaders of misusing public funds to pad executives’ salaries.

The actions came as the House, the state inspector general and Moody’s office ramp up investigations into the taxpayer-backed coalition and Carr, who over a three-year period received \$7.5 million in compensation, including more than \$3 million in paid time off.

“I am disgusted at the mismanagement and greedy misuse of public funds that were meant to assist victims of domestic violence across the state of Florida,” Moody told reporters Wednesday.

The DeSantis administration’s lawsuit accuses the coalition of breach of contract by, among other things, failing to provide documents, failing to cooperate with investigations and failing to provide accurate and complete information about Carr’s compensation package.

The governor’s lawyers are seeking damages for each of the 51 counts of wrongdoing alleged in the complaint against the coalition, Carr and the 11 other defendants, who serve on the coalition’s board of directors or worked for her.

Moody’s office filed a complaint that asks a judge to freeze the coalition’s assets and to preserve evidence that is key to the ongoing investigations.

LET’S MAKE A DEAL In a perennial show of kabuki theater, House and Senate leaders have scrambled to reach a gambling agreement with the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

House Speaker José Oliva indicated Wednesday that lawmakers won’t be able to seal a gambling deal before the scheduled end of the legislative session on March 13.

DeSantis and Senate President Bill Galvano a day earlier held out hope that an agreement, called a compact, could be settled.

They all indicated it might take extra time, however.

Galvano, who was a major player in closing out a 2010 compact with the tribe, remained upbeat Thursday evening, without saying a new agreement was imminent.

“I feel like we can make progress. In general, there are things that are of interest to them (tribal leaders), like the games they don’t have at now this massive casino in South Florida. I don’t know if any of you have seen it, the giant guitar. It’s missing craps and roulette,” the Bradenton Republican told reporters.

For years, the sticking point for the Seminoles has been controversial “designated player” card games that are at the heart of a dispute between the state and the tribe. Pari-mutuels throughout the state are offering the lucrative games, such as Texas Hold ‘Em, at their poker

rooms. But a federal judge decided the games breached the 2010 compact with the tribe that gave them exclusive rights to operate “banked card” games, including blackjack.

The tribe ceased revenue-sharing payments --- about \$350 million a year --- to the state last spring, after earlier reaching a settlement with former Gov. Rick Scott’s administration.

“On our side, we want to see a revenue share, and we want to get past the legal quagmire that we were put into with the games and the lawsuit and the settlement,” Galvano said Thursday.

STORY OF THE WEEK: The state continued to escalate efforts to combat the outbreak of the deadly novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “Those who say cannabis has no effect on the developing brain are science deniers.” --- Rep. Ray Rodrigues, R-Estero, speaking in favor of a proposal to impose a 10 percent cap on euphoria-inducing THC in medical marijuana for patients younger than 21.

After 2 years of rejections, anti-'motorcycle profiling' bill passes Idaho Senate

The bill would forbid police from deciding to pull someone over or arrest or search them solely because they’re riding a motorcycle or wearing motorcycle gear.

Credit: Larry Gebert Author: Betsy Z. Russell (Idaho Press)

BOISE, Idaho — Legislation pushed by Nampa Rep. Robert Anderst for the past three years to forbid “motorcycle profiling” by law enforcement — deciding to pull someone over or arrest or search them solely because they’re riding a motorcycle or wearing motorcycle gear — handily passed the Senate on Wednesday.

The 25-9 vote came after similar legislation died in the Senate last year on a 17-18 vote; and the year before that, after passing the House unanimously, it was killed on a 13-22 vote in the Senate. This year’s bill, SB 1292, started in the Senate.

As they have for the past two years, motorcycling enthusiasts and members of motorcycle groups turned out in big numbers to testify in favor of the bill in committee, saying they’ve been profiled by law enforcement officers when they were abiding by all laws.

This year’s bill, like last year’s, in addition to defining and forbidding motorcycle profiling, also states that it’s not creating any new basis for lawsuits. To become law, it now needs House passage and the governor’s signature.

<https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/capitol-watch/idaho-motorcycle-profiling-bill/277-ecf0db8f-c6a2-4cb7-b3f4-d6e13bc3e0a2>



2020 Dates:

Thur, Feb 20 @ Fat Thursday Bike Night

Thur, Mar 19 @ Hot Rods & Harleys Bike Night

GRAND FINALE 🎉 Thur, Apr 16 @ Legends Bike Night



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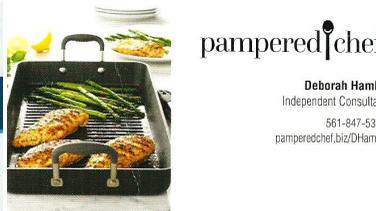
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WEEKLY EVENTS

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 Brother-
hood Open House

SAT HOG Morning Palm Beach
Harley and often other events and
bikini bike washes Grill Days
SAT night Fly n Wheels Open

SUN Lone Legion Breakfast

Black Pistons MC
WEST PALM BEACH
Come join us for our new open
house night

8:00 pm - 11:00pm
Being held @ Clubhouse
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\$5 door donation
includes food and your 1st drink

No Guns
No Drugs
No Attitudes
EXCEPT OURS



Lone Legion Brotherhood MC
Southeast, FL
BREAKFAST
Sunday
9am - 12pm
\$8 Donation Includes 'Triple Play Breakfast'
3 Eggs - cooked to order
3 Pancakes
3 Strips Bacon
Potatoes
OR
Hangover Burger with Potatoes
Coffee or Orange Juice
Mimosa and Bloody Mary Specials



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**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 the
flag. Come for break-
fast and the meeting

2020

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



**SOUTH FLORIDA
PRESIDENTS COUNCIL
BROWARD EVENTS**

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

27-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 -

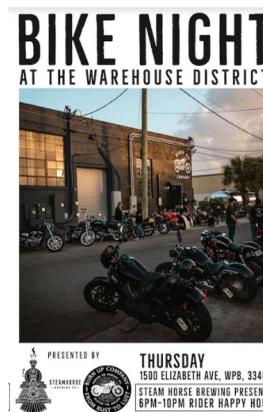
CHILI COOK-OFF

AUGUST

7th-16th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
14th-16th South FL Tattoo Convention
16th-Sun AOA FT. LAUD. -51st
ANNIVERSARY PARTY-
23rd-Sun Scurvy Few MC Annual
30th- Sun Southern MC Teddy
Bear Run

SEPTEMBER

7th-Mon Labor Day
13th-Sun States MC Pompano Key
West Tune UP Party
18th-20th Petersons Key West ?



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 BIKEWEEK Fly n Wheels Open House Asphalt Angels Auto Show
15 DAYTONA BIKEWEEK- ABATE PB Chapter Meeting	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 Hot Rods & Harleys with Bikini contest 2nd Round	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 Burn Up Bike Night	27 Lone Legion Open House	28 Fly n Wheels Open House
29	30	31				

April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Gorilla Bob/ Island Jack's Pirate's Well Lake Park Bike Nights	2	3 Black Pistons Open House	4 Fly n Wheels Open House AMA National Adventure Riding Series Daytona
5 AMA National Adventure Riding Series Daytona Mystic Seven MC Party	6	7	8 Gorilla Bob/ Island Jack's Pirate's Well Lake Park Bike Nights	9	10 AOA WPB Open House	11 Fly n Wheels Open House ABATE FL State Meeting
12 CMA Easter Service	13	14	15 Gorilla Bob/ Island Jack's Pirate's Well Lake Park Bike Nights	16 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night 45th St Legends & Bikini contest Grand Finale	17 Bikes on Ft Laud Beach States LW Open House @ LLB Boca Raton Bike Night	18 Bikes on Ft Laud Beach- Fly n Wheels Open House
19 ABATE PB Chapter Meeting States MC Pompano Annual	20	21	22 Gorilla Bob/ Island Jack's Pirate's Well Lake Park Bike Nights	23	24 Leesburg Bikefest Lone Legion Open House	25 Leesburg Bikefest Riding into HHistory Fly n Wheels Open House
26 Leesburg Bikefest	27	28	29 Gorilla Bob/ Island Jack's Bike Night Thunder Bch Spring Rally	30 Turboz/ Ralph's Bike Night Thunder Bch Spring Rally	Thunder Bch Spring Rally	Thunder Bch Spring Rally to May 3

DELEGATE REPORT

Last month the state meeting was held in Tallahassee and hosted by ABATE of Florida.

We usually have this meeting in April but it being an election year it was held in February.

As I'm sure most of you know that it was also our 23rd annual freedom rights ride to the capital!

This is probably one of the best rides you could do all year and certainly one of the most important! On this ride you get to ride with your ABATE brothers and sisters from all over the state.

You get to ride up into the Capital court yard and park your bike right outside the capital doors.

Then there is a ceremony on the Capitol steps honoring all of our fallen brothers and sisters. All of our GBNF were read.

Then it even gets better you get to go inside the capital and talk to house and senate members and ask them to support those bills that are important to us all in the state of Florida as motorcyclists.

In other news if you are a member of ABATE and you have not filled out a beneficiary card for your A.D.D. insurance policy it is very important you do so as soon as possible if you have questions come to our meeting and we will help you get it done.. Make sure your membership is up to date.

Most new members for Nov. and Dec. went to Gulf Coast. Highest percent of growth for Nov. also went to Gulf Coast. Dec. highest percent of growth went to treasure coast.

NCOM convention will be May 8-10th in Indianapolis this year if anyone is interested.

ABATE state cruise has been canceled due to the corona virus.

Bike week is coming up fast so get your bikes ready now and as always ride safely up there !!

Ride Safe Ride Smart !!! SNOOZE

We lost another chapter as Seminole closed its' doors. Funds were collected to pay for the Florida News Service subscription that provides us data that goes into our report. The rifle drawing did well again. We got tickets for next December drawing. Come to meetings to get a book to sell or bell. Also are available at our table.

STATE MEETINGS

Host Chapter & Location

2020 State Meetings

April 11 Southwest
in Naples
June 13 Vintage
St. Augustine
August 8 Lake
Oct. 10 Gulf Coast
Dec. 12 Forest

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

A star has 5 ends.
A square has 4 ends.
A triangle has 3 ends.
A line has 2 ends.
But a circle of our
friendship has no end.



As requested by Scribe, Half Pint and I visited the Palm Beach offices after the ceremony on the steps.

State Board nominations began with:

- PRES James " Doc" Reichenbach
- VP Darrin "Scribe" Brooks
- SEC Lynn Tres. Deborah Hamby
- Sgt Arms Marcus Hotelling
- MEM Laurie Hanley
- PR Billy Bird
- PROD Shayne Hanley
- LEG Darrin "Scribe" Brooks
- MASTERLINK open

Other Trustees are appointed

Slo Motion



Our State President, James " Doc" Reichenbach , is going to be interviewed by Born to Ride magazine so something to look for.

Products has a big push on selling new and existing products. The price for the helmet anniversary coins hasn't been set yet but they did have new T-shirts made up. See photo at right for the full front design. Price is \$15 so either go to next state meeting n Naples or give me the money and order at our next meeting and I will get for you..

We did have some guest speakers about Motorcycle Profiling.



ABATE of Florida, Inc.

STATE MEETING

Hosted By: Southwest Chapter
Saturday, April 11, 2020

12:00 pm – Board Meeting
2:00 pm – Delegates' Meeting

Meeting Location & Hotel: Comfort Inn & Executive Suites, 3860 Tollgate Blvd., Naples, FL 34114; (239) 353-9500; \$98.99 plus tax – mention ABATE of Florida.

RESERVATIONS AT HOTEL MUST BE MADE BY MARCH 10, 2020.

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION/HOTEL:

From I-75 South, take Exit 101 for Collier Blvd. Make a right onto Collier Blvd. Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto Beck Blvd. Turn left onto Tollgate Blvd. The Comfort Inn & Executive Suites is straight ahead.

From I-75 North, take Exit 101 for Collier Blvd. Make a left onto Collier Blvd. Use the left 2 lanes to turn onto Beck Blvd. Turn left onto Tollgate Blvd. The Comfort Inn & Executive Suites is straight ahead.



QUESTIONS – CALL ROBB RABELL – 239-699-1073

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

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

DAN "SLOW-MOTION" HENDERSON



PALM BEACH Co. FL House of Representatives

D81 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

At the February ABATE state meeting we were given talking points and urged to visit our Legislators. So that was what Half Pint and I did. While the Legislators were mostly absent, of our nine House reps only three had aides at the office. I had taken our newsletters and printed the talking points from Scribe's email so left those at the offices. The Senate was better represented as all four of our Senators had their offices open. We spoke with them except for Berman's as that office was filled with visitors. Still as usual we were almost last to leave the Capital as only a couple of bikes in the courtyard. It is likely to be a quiet session as nobody wants to rock the boat with elections coming up. Also there will be district relocations and the state legislative numbers likely to increase. Slo Mo

MORE STATE MONEY EYED AS THIRD CORONAVIRUS CASE EMERGES March 3, Christine Sexton TALLAHASSEE --- Another person in Florida has presumptively tested positive for the coronavirus, bringing the total number of cases in the state to three, Gov. Ron DeSantis said Tuesday.

The latest case is the sister of a woman who earlier was confirmed positive for the virus after returning from Italy, a hotspot for the disease

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

dubbed COVID-19.

The risk of the deadly virus spreading across Florida also has spurred the Legislature to consider pumping millions of additional dollars into public health and has prompted DeSantis to work closely with the long-term care industry to ensure that the virus doesn't get a foothold in any of the state's 700 nursing homes.

"We received, which we expected, a presumptive positive test for COVID-19," DeSantis told reporters in Tallahassee. "It is the sister of the young female who traveled back from Italy. She was also traveling back. She has been in isolation since this was all identified. And, again, that was something that was contemplated."

Presumptive positive cases involve positive laboratory test results that are pending confirmation by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The United States had 105 cases of COVID-19 in 12 states, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. DeSantis's announcement Tuesday came after two cases were confirmed Monday involving patients in Hillsborough and Manatee counties.

Test results are pending in another 16 cases, according to the Florida Department of Health. Twenty-four people had negative test results. And another 247 people were being monitored by the health department.

DeSantis ordered Department of Health Secretary and state Surgeon General Scott Rivkees to issue a public health emergency Sunday night after the first two cases emerged. One case involved a woman in her 20s who had traveled to northern Italy and the other case was a man in his 60s who was a patient at Doctors Hospital in Sarasota.

DeSantis said Tuesday that four Doctors Hospital staff members who had been in close touch with the COVID-19 patient have also been tested for the virus.

Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, said the Legislature is working with DeSantis on emergency funding for the health department, which is taking the lead on combating the virus. Lawmakers are in Tallahassee for their annual 60-day legislative session and are charged with crafting a budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, which begins on July 1.

"I think initially we're talking about \$10 (million) to \$20 million," Galvano said. "Until we really know what we're looking at, the number is still in play."

Before addressing reporters, DeSantis said he was on a conference call with nursing-home and assisted living facility providers "issuing guidance" and advising that they "should not be having people entering those facilities who are exhibiting any types of symptoms."

DeSantis said his concern about the long-term care facilities is two-fold: COVID-19 is more deadly in frail elderly populations, and a nursing facility in Kirkland, Wash., appears to have a central role in the spread of the virus in Washington state. Health officials reported that four of the six people who have died from COVID-19 in Washington state were residents at the Life Care Center nursing facility in Kirkland.

"You really need to be, I think, forward leaning on that," DeSantis said about the risk of the virus impacting nursing-home and assisted living facility residents. "You know, we've seen what's happened in Washington state. So we're going to continue to work with them,"

COVID-19 was first reported in Wuhan, China, on Dec. 31. The World Health Organization reported 88,948 confirmed cases worldwide as of Monday and more than 3,000 deaths, mostly in China.

DeSantis's morning call with the long-term care industry came after AARP Florida requested that the state provide "adequate supplies of protective wear" to ensure the safety of

nursing home residents and staff members.

The governor, meanwhile, downplayed any notion that the virus should impact the March 17 presidential primary elections in Florida.

“People should go out and vote, and I don't think that there's going to be an issue with that,” he said. “I mean, the guidance about doing things like washing your hands, not touching, not touching your nose, your mouth and your eyes. I mean, it really does work if you follow that.”

LAWMAKERS FACING OVERTIME FOR BUDGET TALKS March 3, Ana Ceballos, Jim Turner

TALLAHASSEE --- Legislators likely will need extra time to hammer out the state budget for next fiscal year, as they continue to clash over issues including the fate of Florida's tourism-marketing agency.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Rob Bradley said Tuesday that while the Senate is making progress with the House in behind-the-scenes budget negotiations, “there is a good possibility that we may need to extend session.”

The Fleming Island Republican added, “that is a very good possibility.”

A short time later, House Speaker Jose Oliva told his chamber it is “inevitable” the legislative session will run into overtime.

“The extent of that extension is yet unknowable,” Oliva, R-Miami Lakes, said. “But we are confident, we're working closely with our partners in the Senate, to bridge the gaps between us that can get us into allocations and then into conference. We're confident that we can get it done. But as of this moment, we are extending at the very least a day or two.”

The 60-day annual session is scheduled to end March 13. But to adjourn on time, the House and Senate would have to finish the budget by March 10 because of a legally required 72-hour “cooling off” period.

Before they can reach agreement, House and Senate leaders will have to make “allocations,” which essentially determine how much money will be provided to each area of the budget, such as education, health care and criminal justice. Conference committees, made up of House and Senate members, then will hold negotiating sessions before final decisions are made by leaders.

Gov. Ron DeSantis told reporters Tuesday that extending the session a few days “is not the end of the world.”

“What I told both leaders is, do a good job. Let's just do a good job,” DeSantis said. “I think we have a lot of great stuff in the pipeline here, I think we have the chance to exceed on what we did last session. I think the people in Florida want to see us doing big things on education, environment and economic development.”

Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, told reporters an extension could resemble last year, when lawmakers added a day to the session to complete the then-record \$90.98 billion spending plan for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30.

“These things are complicated,” Galvano said. “If you look at the (House and Senate) budgets as they were rolled out, we're over \$1 billion apart.”

The House has offered a \$91.37 billion fiscal package, while the Senate proposal came in at \$92.83 billion.

“I think over the next 48 hours we'll figure out where we are,” Galvano added.

“There is a lot that is lined up,” Galvano said. “For example, we’ve been working very hard to find that sweet spot on teacher compensation and moving the education silo forward. There is the environmental side of it. There is a lot of alignment.”

Among key issues is the House’s desire to use affordable-housing money for other parts of the budget; a disagreement about how much money to spend on the Florida Forever land-preservation program; differences on pay raises for teachers and state employees; and a House push to eliminate the tourism-marketing agency Visit Florida.

The Senate has pushed a bill (SB 362) intended to keep Visit Florida operating through Oct. 1, 2028. The House wants to close the agency, which receives \$50 million in state money this year.

Galvano said the House and opponents of Visit Florida aren’t wrong to question some of the past spending by the agency, which included \$1 million for rapper Pitbull to market the state and \$11.6 million to sponsor a cooking show hosted by celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse.

But Galvano said Visit Florida is needed to combat negative images of Florida.

“When you have issues like (the virus) Zika for example, that was tens of millions of dollars that it cost our tourist industry, especially in South Florida,” Galvano said. “Algae and red tide and now corona (the coronavirus). It is important to have some mitigating voice out there so people around the world have a realistic understanding of what is a threat and what isn’t.”

Galvano said the two chambers are also working with DeSantis on emergency funding to help the state address the coronavirus, known as COVID-19.

“I think initially we’re talking about \$10 (million) to \$20 million,” Galvano said. “Until we really know what we’re looking at, the number is still in play.”

WEEKLY ROUNDUP: GRAPPLING WITH THE UNEXPECTED Feb. 28, Jim Saunders

TALLAHASSEE --- Expanding school vouchers. Merging universities. Cracking down on hiring undocumented immigrants.

As the 2020 legislative session enters its home stretch, bills on those and dozens of other issues moved forward this week in committee rooms across the Capitol.

But lawmakers, Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state leaders also were grappling with two big issues that have seemingly caught everybody off guard since the session started in mid-January: the coronavirus and a financial scandal at the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

The focus on those issues was evident Thursday as DeSantis held a news conference to give assurances that the state is doing everything it can to keep the coronavirus at bay and signed a quickly passed bill that ended a contract the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence had with the Department of Children and Families.

Lawmakers have been stunned as they have delved into the finances of the nonprofit coalition --- and particularly into compensation paid to former coalition Chief Executive Officer Tiffany Carr.

DeSantis issued a statement Thursday as he signed the bill (HB 1087) and pretty much summed up the feelings of many lawmakers about the coalition.

“Today’s bill signing is not a celebratory occasion, as it is the result of a deliberate abuse of state dollars, an inexcusable lack of transparency and a calculated breach of public trust,” DeSantis said.

OFFERING ASSURANCES

Flanked by Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez and state Surgeon General Scott Rivkees, DeSantis went before reporters and cameras Thursday to give assurances about the state's efforts to address the coronavirus.

After starting in China, the virus, or COVID-19, has spread across the globe, causing more than 2,800 deaths and sending stock markets spiraling downward.

The good news for Florida: As of Friday, the state did not have any confirmed cases of the virus. Also, Rivkees gave some insight Thursday into how the state would respond if cases occur.

"If there are individual cases or linked cases, our strategy will be to make sure these individuals first have the medical care they need. And that they are isolated so they cannot transmit this virus to others," Rivkees, who also is secretary of the Florida Department of Health, said. "However, if there are multiple other unlinked cases where there appears to be widespread COVID-19, community-based strategies will be implemented, and this will involve avoiding group activities and group meetings."

The DeSantis administration Thursday faced questions from reporters and criticism from Democrats about not providing information on how many Floridians had been tested for the highly contagious virus.

But Rivkees and DeSantis on Friday released information, including that 15 people in Florida had tested negative for the virus. Also, the state was monitoring another 150 people for COVID-19.

The governor, Rivkees and Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez met with Vice President Mike Pence in Palm Beach County to discuss the virus and federal help.

"We are going to make sure states like Florida, and your local health officials, have the resources to be able to be prepared for any eventuality," Pence said. "And in the event that this virus spreads more broadly, that the states are able to be compensated for their efforts."

'AGHAST'

Until Thursday, the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence managed tens of millions of dollars a year in state and federal funds for 42 domestic violence centers, which provide children and victims with services that include emergency shelter, education and counseling.

But that came crashing down after the House began probing how Carr received more than \$7 million over a three-year period. After DeSantis signed the bill to end the state's sole-source contract with the coalition, the Department of Children and Families will manage the money for the domestic-violence centers.

Sen. Aaron Bean, a Fernandina Beach Republican who presented the bill in the Senate, said Department of Children and Families Secretary Chad Poppell told him the agency is prepared to offer "uninterrupted aid" to all victims.

"DCF is fully prepared and assuming the role of the provider," Bean said.

Much of the attention this week focused on two days of hearings held by the House Public Integrity & Ethics Committee, which took testimony from coalition executives and board members. Part of the focus was on millions of dollars in paid time off that Carr received in addition to her salary and benefits, according to financial records obtained by the House.

Committee Chairman Tom Leek, R-Ormond Beach, told reporters after a four-hearing Thursday that it was "certainly coincidental" that Carr increased the compensation of the non-profit's executives as her own compensation package was boosted.

“It appears to me that the employees, along with Ms. Carr, worked collectively to cheat the system to make it so they could bonus themselves up with Ms. Carr,” Leek said.

Coalition Chief Financial Officer Patricia Duarte and Chief Operating Officer Sandy Barnett testified during Thursday’s hearing about the financial arrangements. Both women admitted Carr’s multimillion-dollar cash-out of paid time off was “excessive.”

“I wouldn’t say unethical, but wrong? I would say it could be viewed as excessive,” Duarte told the committee, when pressed about the issue.

Earlier in the week, House Speaker Jose Oliva, R-Miami Lakes, described the situation differently after coalition board members testified.

“I was aghast,” Oliva said, referring to the board members’ testimony. “It was disturbing. Scandalous. I don’t know what other word I can use to fully express what I thought of that.”

STORY OF THE WEEK: Lawmakers probed the finances of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, while stripping the coalition’s contract to manage state and federal funds for domestic-violence centers across the state.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “These universities became universities because of decisions this Legislature made. They didn’t happen on their own. A stork didn’t fly over the state and drop a basket. We’re the only ones who can merge them. That is our job.” --- House sponsor Randy Fine, R-Palm Bay, on a controversial bill that would merge Florida Polytechnic University and New College of Florida into the University of Florida.

STATE WANTS COURT TO LOOK AGAIN AT FELONS VOTING Feb. 27, Dara Kam

TALLAHASSEE --- Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration is asking an appellate court to revisit a three-judge panel’s decision this month that upheld a federal judge’s ruling that the state cannot deprive the right to vote to felons who are unable to pay court-ordered fees and fines.

The 33-page motion, filed Wednesday, asks the full 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to hear the case, what is known as an “en banc” hearing. The motion accused the three-judge panel of applying the wrong type of analysis, known as “heightened scrutiny,” to arrive at the Feb. 19 decision.

The panel should have relied instead on a “rational-basis review” used by other courts when weighing similar matters, lawyers for the state argued.

In urging the full court to reconsider the decision, the state called the case a “paradigmatic candidate for en banc review.”

“Indeed, it is difficult to think of an issue more important to the sovereignty of a state than the makeup of its electorate,” lawyers for DeSantis and his administration wrote in the motion filed with the Atlanta-based appeals court.

U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle ruled in October that a state law requiring felons to pay court-ordered financial obligations, such as fees, fines and restitution, was unconstitutional.

The law, passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature last year, was aimed at carrying out a constitutional amendment, known as Amendment 4, that restored voting rights to felons who have completed terms of their sentences. Voting-rights groups challenged the law, arguing that hinging voting rights on felons’ finances amounts to a modern-day “poll tax.”

The Florida law “unconstitutionally punishes a class of felons based only on their wealth,” the three-judge panel wrote in upholding Hinkle’s ruling.

Requiring all felons to pay financial obligations violates equal protection rights guaran-

teed under the 14th Amendment because it “punishes those who cannot pay more harshly than those who can,” judges Lanier Anderson III, Stanley Marcus and Barbara Rothstein decided.

But the state argued that the judges’ ruling created a split “with the only other circuit court (of appeals) that has addressed the question,” which “heightened” the significance of the case.

The 2018 constitutional amendment restored voting rights to felons “who have completed all terms of their sentence, including parole or probation,” excluding people “convicted of murder or a felony sexual offense.”

A legislative fight broke out last year over the interpretation of “all terms of their sentences,” with the Republican-dominated Legislature approving a measure that required the payment of “legal financial obligations” ordered by the court.

Voting- and civil-rights groups immediately challenged the law, arguing in part that linking voting rights with finances equates to a Jim Crow-era “poll tax.”

Proponents of the amendment, approved by more than 65 percent of Florida voters, have maintained that it could restore voting rights to as many as 1.4 million Floridians. The state law requiring payment of financial obligations to vote could disqualify hundreds of thousands of potential voters, according to court documents.

DeSantis and his lawyers have repeatedly insisted that, because states are allowed to permanently disenfranchise felons, the law is constitutional.

“Indeed, it is entirely rational for the people of Florida to insist that all felons repay their debt to society in full before rejoining the electorate, and that is true even if the analysis focuses solely on those unable to pay and even if the majority of felons were not able to pay,” the state’s lawyers argued in Wednesday’s motion.

Florida’s “interest in retribution is not satisfied until the terms of a felon’s sentence are completed in full,” DeSantis’ lawyers wrote.

“This is true regardless of whether a felon can afford any financial terms of his or her sentence,” they added. “By reasoning that a state rationally may not insist in all circumstances on a full measure of justice --- justice as determined by the judge and jury in each felon’s case --- before determining that a felon’s breach with society has been healed and that the felon therefore may rejoin the voting community, the panel effectively attacks the validity of the underlying punishment itself.”

The state’s lawyers last week asked the appellate court to continue preventing felons from voting while the appeal is underway.

In a brief Feb. 21, DeSantis’ lawyers wrote that “a majority of the active judges on this court will likely agree to hear the case en banc” and overturn the panel decision.

The three-judge panel had rejected a state argument that requiring payment of financial obligations provides an incentive for felons to pay.

“The state cannot draw blood from a stone,” the judges wrote.

The state’s position, they wrote, “relies on the notion that the destitute would only, with the prospect of being able to vote, begin to scratch and claw for every penny, ignoring the far more powerful incentives that already exist for them --- like putting food on the table, a roof over their heads, and clothes on their backs.”

‘PIP’ REPEAL ON ROAD TO HOUSE FLOOR Feb. 27, Jim Turner

TALLAHASSEE --- An effort to eliminate the state's no-fault auto insurance system continues to roll in the House despite arguments that lawsuits and rates will go up.

The House Commerce Committee on Thursday voted 17-7 to support the proposal (HB 771), which is now ready to go to the House floor. The proposal seeks to replace a requirement that motorists carry personal-injury protection, or PIP, insurance coverage --- key to the no-fault system --- with mandatory bodily injury coverage.

Bill sponsor Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, said the change, in part, would eliminate at least 25 percent of litigated cases in the state.

"That is massive, that is tort reform," Grall said.

Grall also argued the PIP system continues to face fraud and that rates are already going up.

"They have increased year over year, sometimes as much as 50 percent, depending upon the carrier," Grall said. "We can talk about the fact that rates will increase if we transition the systems. But rates are going to increase because of the severity, frequency and cost of living that we see in the state."

Rep. Matt Willhite D- Wellington, called the \$10,000 in coverage provided under PIP since the 1970s "laughable," noting that his wife was in an accident two months ago with a motorist who had the state's minimum coverage. PIP is designed to help cover medical bills.

"My first brush at the hospital and the emergency services bill exceeded \$28,000," Willhite said. "I haven't gotten to the car repair yet."

But a similar proposal (SB 378) has stalled in the Senate. And the House effort continues to draw concerns from lawmakers and people in the insurance and health-care industries.

Rep. David Santiago, R- Deltona, expressed concern about the potential impact on economically vulnerable residents if rates go up.

"In Florida, I think the study I read, one in eight are uninsured," Santiago said. "And could this potential increase, if it does have an increase, cause more to go uninsured?"

Rep. Anthony Sabatini, R-Howey-in-the-Hills, was among several lawmakers who said more work is needed on issues related to "bad faith" lawsuits, an issue that has tripped up the Senate proposal.

"I think we need guardrails on the bill," Sabatini said.

Bad-faith cases involve allegations that insurers have not properly looked out for the interests of their customers. Insurers and business groups have long lobbied to curb bad-faith cases.

Grall said she will continue to seek the "silver bullet" in the bad-faith issue.

Lawmakers in both chambers have floated the idea of ending the no-fault system almost annually since passing a law aimed at reforming PIP in 2012.

Toni Large, a lobbyist for the Florida College of Emergency Physicians, argued that the current system allows people to get treated immediately after accidents without the fear of litigation and makes sure payments go to health-care providers.

"Many people have health insurance on paper but cannot afford the high- deductible plans they have purchased," Large said in opposing the proposed change.

A 2016 report by the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation projected that drivers would see a 5.6 percent savings by shifting to a bodily injury coverage requirement.

But Derek Silver, deputy director of government affairs for the Office of Insurance Regulation, advised committee members on Thursday that "if you were to repeal PIP, rates even-

tually would go up.”

A 2018 study by the actuarial consulting firm Milliman showed an average increase in premiums of \$67, or a 5.3 percent increase.

Doug Bell, a lobbyist for Progressive Insurance, said its estimates indicated motorists could see premiums increase on average \$312 to \$345 a year under the change from PIP to bodily injury coverage.

“Folks that are just barely going paycheck to paycheck, they are going to see the largest increases,” Bell said. “They are the ones who can least afford it. So, I think you’ll see a real high rate of uninsured.”

Grall’s proposal also would require auto insurers to offer medical-payments coverage, known as “MedPay,” to consumers, a position the Senate has backed in the past. Such coverage could help pay medical bills if motorists are involved in accidents.

The bills would require a minimum of \$25,000 in bodily injury coverage for the injury or death of one person and \$50,000 for injuries or deaths of two or more people. The proposals also would retain an existing \$10,000 financial responsibility requirement for property damage.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020 TURNPIKE WIDENING DISCUSSED: The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a meeting about plans to widen Florida’s Turnpike from Indiantown Road in Jupiter to Okeechobee Road in Fort Pierce. (Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Port St. Lucie Civic Center, 9221 S.E. Civic Center Place, Port St. Lucie.)

NO FAULT AUTO INSURANCE REPEAL STALLS OVER ‘BAD FAITH’ Feb. 11, Jim Turner TALLAHASSEE --- Florida’s no-fault auto insurance system might avoid repeal for another year as lawmakers fight over whether to slap “bad faith” litigation issues in the proposal.

The House Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee voted 13-4 on Tuesday to end the no-fault system, which requires motorists to carry personal-injury protection, or PIP, coverage. The bill (HB 779) would require motorists to carry bodily-injury coverage.

But a short time later Tuesday, the Senate version (SB 378) did not come up as scheduled in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee.

The proposal, at least for now, appears stalled over a proposed amendment designed to restrict “bad faith” lawsuits, which involve allegations that insurers have not properly looked out for the interests of their customers.

A bad-faith provision isn’t included in the House bill, and Senate sponsor Tom Lee said he had no intention of bringing up his bill because of the amendment. He objected to the same bad-faith amendment being added to a separate insurance measure sponsored by Sen. Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg.

“I spent 10 hours on this other bill,” Lee said of Brandes’ bill. “Provision after provision after provision, and then all of a sudden, when it’s all agreed to, now this amendment pops up. Nobody talked to me about it.”

Brandes’ bill had to be postponed after Lee objected. Lee, R-Thonotosassa, said after the meeting he couldn’t support the amendment, which was the product of “people above my pay grade.”

“If that’s the best we can do here in the Senate, then PIP is going to have to wait, you know, survive another year,” Lee said.

Brandes said the no-fault bill won’t get back on the committee agenda without addressing bad-faith cases, which he added are part of a wider need for lawmakers to address issues

in the insurance industry, including problems in the property-insurance industry.

“This is why I’m saying we’re headed towards a special session on insurance,” Brandes said. “It’s going to be all-hands-on-deck for Florida because we’re seeing rates rise. We’re seeing coverage is being limited. We’re seeing insurance companies not rewriting business of the people. Less people are putting new roofs on.”

Insurers and business groups have sought for years to put more restrictions on bad-faith lawsuits and have sought to tie it to the no-fault auto insurance issue.

Lawmakers for years have debated whether to get rid of the system, which requires motorists to carry \$10,000 in PIP coverage to help pay medical bills after accidents. The \$10,000 PIP coverage amount has been unchanged since 1979.

The House this year has moved to include a Senate proposal that medical-payments coverage, known as “MedPay,” be offered to consumers. Such coverage could help pay medical bills if motorists are involved in accidents.

House sponsor Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, has said bad-faith changes would make the proposal “more complicated than it needs to be.” On Tuesday, Grall said she remains open to adding bad-faith language but questioned if there is a “landing spot” for such a provision.

The House and Senate proposals would move away from the PIP requirement and, starting Jan. 1, mandate that motorists carry bodily injury coverage. The bills would require a minimum of \$25,000 in bodily injury coverage for the injury or death of one person and \$50,000 for injuries or deaths of two or more people. The proposals also would retain an existing \$10,000 financial responsibility requirement for property damage.

Policyholders would also be given a chance to reject medical payments coverage starting at \$5,000, with deductibles from zero to \$500.

A 2016 report by the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation projected that drivers would see a 5.6 percent savings by shifting to a bodily-injury coverage requirement. A study two years later by the actuarial consulting firm Milliman showed an average increase in premiums of \$67, or a 5.3 percent increase.

Grall said motorists should see an 8.1 percent savings and that including bad faith language would only provide about a 1 percent savings.

Progressive Insurance estimates motorists could see premiums increase \$312 to \$348 a year under the change from PIP to mandatory bodily injury coverage.

SENATE ROLLS OUT \$92.83 BILLION BUDGET PLAN January 30, Jim Turner

TALLAHASSEE --- The Florida Senate released an initial \$92.83 billion budget proposal Thursday that would provide across-the-board pay raises for state employees, increase money for teacher salaries and help fund water-quality projects.

The Senate proposal for the fiscal year that starts July 1 would be about a 2 percent increase over the current year’s budget. Also, it exceeds a \$91.4 billion budget proposal that Gov. Ron DeSantis released in November.

Much of the Senate package had been unveiled in subcommittees earlier in the week, such as providing \$500 million to increase teacher pay and earmarking \$643.6 million for water quality and protection. That slightly exceeded DeSantis’ proposal to spend \$625 million for Everglades restoration and other water projects.

DeSantis proposed spending \$602 million to set minimum teacher salaries at \$47,500. The Senate would use a large chunk of its proposed \$500 million to move toward that mini-

mum-salary goal, while also providing money to boost pay of veteran teachers.

"These significant increases allow us to reach Gov. DeSantis' goal of increasing the minimum classroom teacher salary over the next few years, while also providing opportunities for districts to invest in veteran teachers and the many other members of school district personnel who have such a tremendous impact on our children's education," Senate Appropriations Chairman Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, said in a prepared statement.

The plan is a first step as Senate and House negotiators prepare to hammer out a final budget before the annual legislative session is scheduled to end March 13. A full House proposal had not been posted Thursday afternoon, though House subcommittees released many details earlier in the week.

A major difference between the Senate plan and DeSantis' proposal is that the Senate would provide a 3 percent pay raise to state employees, while also setting aside additional money for correctional officers. DeSantis has proposed additional money for correctional officers but not for rank-and-file state employees.

"We also include a meaningful investment in across-the-board salary increases for our hard-working state employees, as well as forward-looking investments in infrastructure that are critical to future security and economic growth," Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, said in a statement.

AFSCME Florida, a union that represents state workers, has tried to press lawmakers for raises, including holding rallies this week. It praised the Senate budget proposal.

"We are thrilled that the hard work of our dedicated state employees is being recognized in the Senate budget," AFSCME Florida President Vicki Hall said in a statement. "Our members raised their voices to remind our legislators who it is that makes this state tick, and those voices have been heard."

The Senate proposal would fully fund increases in state-employee health insurance costs and fully fund affordable-housing programs at \$387 million. Also, the Senate said the budget includes such things as a \$368.5 million increase in the Department of Transportation's work program and would not increase tuition in state colleges and universities.

The Senate noted in a news release that its spending plan is based on January general-revenue estimates from state economists. Those estimates were not available when DeSantis rolled out his budget plan in November. On Jan. 14, the economists boosted the estimate of revenues by about \$400 million over two years.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is slated to take up the spending plan Wednesday and could make changes. The full Senate then would consider the plan the following week.

EDITOR: With Curtis being un Moscov and then Houston this issue was delayed. He got to see snow and Ural motorcycles. So on page 8 we will see the latest news from Tallahassee that came in before finishing with his report. This worked well since the other news stories were weak. So this issue is mostly legislative with the Capital ride. Hope you enjoy the photos.

ABATE of FL Inc. Palm Beach Chapter Minutes

General Meeting - VFW Post 4243, 2404 Broadway, Riviera Beach Feb. 16, 2020

Called to order: 11:34 am Start with Pledge Allegiance and moment of silence.

Members 15, guest 1

PRESIDENT: Curtis Alva. Welcome three Enforcers in attendance. Next month begins Board nominations and work will prevent Curtis from running, Off to Moscow! Need people to step up

VICE PRESIDENT: John Valiquette had to resign so last meeting as VP. Curtis named Snooze as pro tem until elections

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

TREASURER: Suzanne Sequin. We are in the green. Likely to step down as treasurer but open to another position at elections

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Pete Carroll due to losing his hearing he will not be running again

MEMBERSHIP: Suzanne Sequin working on getting membership data updated

LEGISLATIVE: Dan Henderson. Debbie and Snooze run in the Tally Ride. Half Pint and I visit our fourteen state legislators. None were in their offices and only a few had the aids available to talk to. We left newsletters and info on the bills we support

SAFETY: Dan Henderson Need help and places to do table. Would someone else do safety?

DELEGATE: Ken Gerecke, Dan Henderson see page 20

PR/WEB/NEWSLETTER: Dan Henderson nothing to report

PRODUCTS: . . Slo Mo brought paper new Products paperwork

OLD 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

NEW BUSINESS: nominations start next month. Need members [le to step to keep chapter open

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Door prize T-shirt won by Tony "Wrench". 50/50 won by Rob and was donated back to the chapter.

TIME OF ADJOURNMENT: 23:36

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. It does not matter what you or even if you ride. You can be an independent or member of a club or association. All are welcome at meetings.

JOIN FOR THE CAUSE. Everything is voluntary, we understand work and family comes first. We hope you can help in any small way, vote and spread the word.

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 is one of the best benefits of being an ABATE member. That is one reason to keep your membership up to date. You MUST name someone to get the money in case of death to prevent taxes and being in probate court. Since they are no longer mailing the card, get one at meeting or table. Fill it out and we will get to the state office. Then your information will be at the state office of 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

Get your card at chapter meeting or our table at events. Keep membership up to date for the insurance



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



ABATE Of Florida, Inc...*Lake County Chapter's*
Campground- Open to the Public
for Leesburg BikeFest™

Campground is off of Hwy 27 & CR 48 –6 miles S from downtown LSBG. Coming from N on 27 pass CR 33 & Turn Right- onto CR 48. at gas station, by light. Riding south on 27, turn left at the light onto CR48, look for signs.

RVs Welcome \$20 & Trailers \$10 one time Fee
 NO hook ups- NO Reservations- **Cash Only**

- *24 Hr Security
- *Hot Showers
- *Bike Blessing
- *50/50 & Prizes
- *Blood Mobile
- *NO PETS
- *VENDORS

DATES: April 23-24-25-26th -- -2020
WHERE: 27150 Haywood Worm Farms Rd Okahumpka 34762 **Eagles Aerie # 4273**
TIME: gates open Thurs 7 am **NO Early arrivals**
 Gates close Sunday at noon.
COST: \$15. pp, per nite -Includes Tax
 Kids 10 & under FREE –
Can NOT accept reservations – CASH ONLY
 ABATE of Florida, Inc, Lake web: <http://lake.abateflorida.com/>

- *Live Bands @ 8pm
Thur: TBA
Fri: TBA
Sat: Jackson County
 * Tiki Bar
- *Sat Poker Run
- *Food available
 @ Eagles Aerie

ABATE OF FLORIDA, Inc. Lake County Chapter and its affiliates of the Leesburg BikeFest ABATE campground will not be held responsible financially or otherwise for any adverse weather conditions that may affect, delay or cancel any scheduled performance-event described herein this promotional flier. Join ABATE of Florida, Inc & receive \$4,000 accidental death INS. Our rights as motorcyclists are constantly being challenged at an alarming rate; every motorcycle enthusiast should belong to a Motorcycle Rights Organization (MRO).

Take-A-Break Poker Run - Saturday

Sign up outside of ABATE campground from 9:30-11. Last bike back to campground 4:00. Plaques awarded-- \$10 pp. *About 100 mile ride. A percentage to benefit VORRH, the homeless Vets www.vorrh.org

- NO site fires
- NO Weapons
- NO Pets**
- NO Attitudes
- NO EXCEPTIONS

Pres: Griz 352-516-4240 LakeAbatePresident@gmail.com VP: MARCUS 321-607-2516
LakeAbateVicePresident@gmail.com Looking for Vendors, contact Rich LakeAbatePR@gmail.com

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

Next Palm Beach Chapter Meeting VFW POST 4143
3rd Sunday March 15 , 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.