

*November 2009*  
*Monthly Newsletter*

# **WILL COUNTY CHAPTER**

## **ABATE OF ILLINOIS**

**A BROTHERHOOD AIMED TOWARDS EDUCATION**



### **OUR MISSION**

The mission of the Will County Chapter and A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois is to preserve the universal right to a safe, unrestricted motorcycling environment.

**Dedicated to Freedom of the Road  
Let Those Who Ride Decide!**

*Will County ABATE, P.O. Box 928, Plainfield, IL 60544*

[www.willcoabate.org](http://www.willcoabate.org)

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**This Month's Highlights**



- 2010 Will County Board Election is almost here. Please make sure that you vote!

**REMINDER: CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS. YOU CAN NOT VOTE IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED. CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL ON THE NEWSLETTER OR ASK HELEN.**

**Next General Membership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 11th - 7:30pm**  
**at Harwood Post**

**President: Jay**

Hello everyone. Thanks to everyone who made the October meeting. I am disappointed in the turn out. If I or the board has caused such a low attendance, PLEASE let me know. Sunday meetings are usually attended by a much larger group.

Well, November is here. Where did the summer go? Just remember with the drastic change in temps on these fall days. If it is nice when you leave the house, make sure you take warm clothes with. It's no fun coming home while freezing your butt off.

November meeting. Nominations are still open for all board positions. Some existing board members have chosen not to run for the 2010 year and we will need to fill those positions. If you are interested in running, have someone nominate you. Remember, if all of us do something, no one has to do everything. There are people from other chapters and the state board that have praised this chapter and its members in our work this year as an MRO. So, let's keep it up.

Ride safe & be courteous to others out there on the road!

Make sure you make it to the Jay



**A NEW GRUNDY  
COUNTY ABATE  
CHAPTER?**

If you are interested in helping form a **NEW** ABATE chapter in Grundy County, please come to a meeting on **Monday, Nov. 2nd at 7:00pm at the VFW Hall in Morris** (McKinley St. & Rt. 47)! Please lend your support to our brothers & sisters in Grundy County! Everyone is welcome.

**WILL COUNTY ABATE NOMINATIONS – OCTOBER MEETING**

<b><u>Position/Name</u></b>	<b><u>Nominated By</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>
<u>President</u> Jay	Kat	Accepted
<u>Treasurer</u> Pat	Wayne	Accepted
<u>Secretary</u> Jackie	Bobbi	Accepted
<u>Activities</u> Brenda	Barb	Accepted
<u>Legislative</u> Brian	Randy	Accepted
<u>State Rep</u> Madd Maxx	Frank	Accepted
<u>Newsletter</u> Kat	Lauren	Declined
<u>Merchandise</u> Lauren	Jackie	Tabled to Nov.
<u>Safety &amp; Ed</u> Monty	Barb	Accepted
<u>Membership</u> Helen	Madd Maxx	Absent
<u>Road Captain</u> Ron Jim Al Jim	Sandy Mr. Ed Wayne Barb	Declined Absent Declined Declined
<u>Sgt. At Arms</u> Eric	Barb	Absent
<u>Public Relations</u> Freak Ken	Lauren Keith	Absent Declined

***\*\*Board nominations will be open at the November General Membership meeting. Nominees must be present to accept or decline nomination.\*\****

**VP: Sylvia**

Hello to all my brothers & sisters of Will County! I just wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you now, as next month I will be enjoying the Florida weather. It has been my pleasure to serve as your Vice President this past year and look forward to helping out next year as a **contributing** member of our Chapter. The Board puts forth a lot of time and energy. I think we should have committees for **all** of our events to relieve some of the stress and pressure put on a few (i.e. our Book Run had 41 stops). I think a committee should be

formed so that each member of this committee would be responsible for a certain number of bars. This would include distributing books, collecting money and collecting donations, if applicable. It has become a good moneymaker for our chapter, but it is too much work for one person.

Please be sure to vote in the Chapter election coming up. Again, a big **THANKS** to all for your support and help.

Ride Smart.

Sylvia

**PR: Ken**

Dear Members:

The *Herald* newspaper had a full-page story about the CASA event (Thunder in July) which posted a picture of myself and Sam Rita and mentioned how Will Co. ABATE supported the run. Another good thing in the paper about motorcycles instead of bad PR.

The Obama Administration issued an emergency order for all federal employees to stop sending or receiving text messages while

driving government cars. This is bringing more attention to the distracted drivers issue and they recognize there is a problem. Like I have been saying, let's lead by example. Put the phone down or pull over. I believe we are all guilty of this.

Remember, our election is almost here. Please show up and make your vote count.

Your PR Guy,

Kenny

**Legislative: Brian**

Greetings Will County Chapter! I'm writing this the first week in October, but the odometer on my bike reads more like it should be March! Seems like the only riding I've done was to work and back. Oh well, my 15-year streak of putting more miles on my bike than my car still stands. Not much consolation, though...

Randy and I came back from the Meeting of the Minds with some new insights, as well as some disappointment. The average age of the attendees keeps going up, with very few young faces in the crowd, and no one seems to have the answer as to how to get them involved. The younger generation can't remember when the government didn't try to regulate every aspect of day-to-day life, so they have no sense of the danger an all-controlling government brings.

I asked Jeff Hennie of the MRF if he's had any luck pitching my idea about making motorcycle-sensitive stoplight sensors mandatory for all federally funded road projects. He said there's a lot of resistance to it and without Boz around to keep pushing him, I think it's probably a dead issue. The new Highway

Funding bill that's been introduced may have some good news regarding police "safety checks" aimed at motorcycles. The so-called "2010 grant" funds that states have been using to pay for the roadblocks would be made part of the "402 funds." What it all boils down to is this: the money that was used for motorcycle safety and awareness programs couldn't be used to pay for roadblocks - if the states want to do them, they'd have to pay for them themselves. There is money in the new bill to fund a feasibility study for "black boxes" for motorcycles - ya think there's any connection to the bill that was just introduced to tax vehicle miles traveled instead of gallons of gas purchased? They didn't even wait to see the results of the nine-city pilot program before they introduced the bill!

The hot topic at Meeting of the Minds was noise; no surprise there. The Motorcycle Confederation of Canada has gotten on board with the SAE standards I was talking about last month. They're even helping police departments calibrate the equipment and take test readings. In the U.S., the AMA has written sample legislation

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based on these standards because if we don't get out in front of this issue, we're going to wind up with a patchwork of different standards from state to state or even town to town. Or worse yet, they'll start enforcing the 1979 EPA standards, which are so quiet virtually all stock exhausts would fail! I was really disappointed that the MRF didn't get proactive and instead voted to reissue their 2003 position paper calling for "personal restraint." This issue is not going away and if we don't stand together and take a reasonable position, we stand a good chance of even worse restrictions. If the SAE standards are adopted, the public will think they won because now there's a uniform noise standard. But we win too because virtually all exhausts except straight pipes will pass the test.

The long-awaited Motorcycle Crash Causation Study is finally getting underway. This is the first serious study since the famous Hurt Report, which is nearly 30 years old. Hopefully, we'll get some factual data that isn't twisted to fit preconceived notions. And last week Transportation Secretary (and ABATE friend) Ray LaHood held a

two-day summit on the dangers of distracted driving. According to some surveys, texting while driving has increased 500% in just the last two years! Senator Chuck Schumer and Rep. Amy Klobuchar have introduced bills that would force states to pass texting bans or lose 25% of their Federal road funds. This is scary - it opens the floodgates for Federal helmet (or reflective clothing, or you-name-it) blackmail.

Finally, next year is an election year and a way to help our Congressional friends from Illinois is by coming to Pactoberfest, the NE Region's fundraiser for FEDPAC. It's at Leo's in Romeoville from 7pm-midnight on Saturday, Oct. 24. We'll have some of our friends from Springfield, as well as DC, there. Come out and eat, drink and get to know your lawmakers and fellow ABATE members. The 2010 election is critical to our cause here in Illinois; there's also a census being conducted which will be used to determine how many Congressional seats each state gets. Something SCARY to consider: it's no secret that people are moving from the Midwest to the Southeast and Southwest. Already, California alone has 53 Congressional seats

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- the "Heartland" Region of the MRF (IL, IA, WI, MN, ND, SD, KA, and NE) has 49 seats COMBINED! After the next census, it'll be even worse. So, we MUST do everything in our power to ensure that every Illinois Congressional seat is occupied by someone who's looking out for our interests as motorcyclists. See you at Pactoberfest!

Never let your guard down,

Brian  
Legislative Curmudgeon

"All I ask is equal freedom. When it is denied, as it always is, I take it anyhow."

- H.L. Mencken, my favorite curmudgeon

## *Going Green?*

**THE BOARD IS LOOKING AT HOW WILL COUNTY ABATE CAN GO GREEN IN REGARDS TO THE NEWSLETTER. WE ARE LOOKING AT SEVERAL DIFFERENT OPTIONS. IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, PLEASE COME TO A GENERAL MEETING AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS.**



**THANKS TO EVERYONE  
WHO PARTICIPATED IN  
THE 2009 NORTHEAST  
REGION FLAG EVENTS!**

**High School Presentation Schedule**

**2009**

October 29	Romeoville
December 4	Plainfield East
December 11	Plainfield North

**2010**

February 5	Plainfield East
February 12	Plainfield North
April 9	Plainfield East
April 30	Plainfield North

**Safety & Education is  
everyone's responsibility.**

**Come on out and help  
MJ with a presentation!**

<b>2009 Will County ABATE Board Contact List</b>			
Jay	President	815/693-6645	<a href="mailto:jay@willcoabate.org">jay@willcoabate.org</a>
Sylvia	Vice President	815/545-2956	<a href="mailto:sylvia@willcoabate.org">sylvia@willcoabate.org</a>
Jackie	Secretary	815/467-1529	<a href="mailto:jackie@willcoabate.org">jackie@willcoabate.org</a>
Pat	Treasurer	815/258-6113	<a href="mailto:pat@willcoabate.org">pat@willcoabate.org</a>
Sharyl & Brenda	Activities	815/603-5667 815/693-4400	<a href="mailto:activities@willcoabate.org">activities@willcoabate.org</a>
Brian	Legislative	815/210-1715 c 815/725-4357 h	<a href="mailto:brian@willcoabate.org">brian@willcoabate.org</a>
Monty	State Rep	630/973-6911	<a href="mailto:monty@willcoabate.org">monty@willcoabate.org</a>
Kat	Newsletter Editor	815/955-5950	<a href="mailto:kat@willcoabate.org">kat@willcoabate.org</a>
Lauren	Merchandise	815/557-6933	<a href="mailto:lauren@willcoabate.org">lauren@willcoabate.org</a>
MJ	Safety & Education	815/341-8295	<a href="mailto:mj@willcoabate.org">mj@willcoabate.org</a>
Helen	Membership	815/723-6839	<a href="mailto:helen@willcoabate.org">helen@willcoabate.org</a>
Ron	Road Captain	815/791-3555	<a href="mailto:ron@willcoabate.org">ron@willcoabate.org</a>
Eric	Sgt. At Arms	815/954-6474	<a href="mailto:eric@willcoabate.org">eric@willcoabate.org</a>
Ken	Public Relations	815/260-2644	<a href="mailto:ken@willcoabate.org">ken@willcoabate.org</a>

**Membership: Helen**

DID YOU KNOW: You need to be a member in good standing in order to vote for officers? Elections are coming up in December. If you wish to run for an office or vote for the candidate of your choice, please make sure your membership has not expired.

If you would like to run for office, let it be known to someone so you can be nominated and put on the ballot. The last chance for nominations is at the November meeting.

MOST WANTED – RENEWALS: Don't worry if your name shows on the most wanted list and you have renewed. Sometimes the article goes in before I receive the renewal.

**MOST WANTED**

**PLEASE SEE PRINTED NEWSLETTER FOR COMPLETE LISTING  
OF RENEWALS OR CONTACT HELEN.**



**Get your sign from  
Kenny for only \$4!**



## UPCOMING EVENTS\*

### October 2009



- 9 Fish Fry: 4-8pm @ Harwood *(Fri)*  
(Come on out and help Mr. Ed!)
- 10 Will Co. ABATE Book Run Party: 6-11pm @ Harwood *(Sat)*
- 12 Columbus Day *(Mon)*
- 17 ABATE of IL e-Board & BOD Meetings *(Sat)*
- 17 South Suburban's Halloween Party *(Sat)*
- 24 NE Region Pactober Fest: 7pm @ Leo's—Romeoville *(Sat)* 
- 31 Halloween *(Sat)*

### November 2009



- 2 Meeting-Possible New Grundy Co. ABATE Chapter: 7:00pm @ VFW—McKinley St. & Rt. 47, Morris *(Mon)*
- 3 ELECTION DAY! *(Tues)*
- 4 Board Meeting: 7:00pm @ Mr. B's *(Wed)*
- 11 VETERANS' DAY! *(Wed)*
- 11 General Membership Meeting: 7:30pm @ Harwood *(Wed)*  
(Officer Nominations!)
- 13 Fish Fry: 4-8pm @ Harwood *(Fri)*  
(Come on out and help Mr. Ed!)
- 21 ABATE of IL e-Board Meeting *(Sat)*
- 26 Thanksgiving *(Thur)*
- 28 Will County ABATE Turkey Crawl: TBD *(Sat)*



### December 2009

- 2 Board Meeting: 7:00pm @ Harwood *(Wed)*
- 9 General Membership Meeting: 7:30pm @ Harwood *(Wed)*  
(Election of New Officers!)
- 11 Fish Fry: 4-8pm @ Harwood *(Fri)*  
(Come on out and help Mr. Ed!)
- 11 Hanukkah
- 12 ABATE of IL e-Board & BOD Meetings *(Sat)*  
(Holiday Party to Follow)
- 25 Christmas *(Fri)*
- 31 New Year's Eve *(Thurs)*



\*Check relevant websites for updates to the calendar.

[www.willcoabate.org](http://www.willcoabate.org)