

## A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota, Lake Chapter

**Date:** December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Location:** Madigans, Maple Lake, MN

<b>President:</b>	Keith "Smoker" Efron	X	<b>Sergeant at Arms:</b>	Blythe Bucher	X
<b>Vice President:</b>	Scott Bitzer	_____		Nikki Arne	X
<b>Chapter Rep:</b>	Scott Trout	X		Gaida Trout	X
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Christina Lincoln	X		Mike Berger	_____
<b>Secretary:</b>	Dale Morin	X			_____

**Total numbers of members attending:** 37

**Guests:** 2

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:** Gaida T.

**Mtg Start Time:** 3:05pm

**Mtg End Time:** 4:00pm

**Welcome to members and guests; President's Remarks; Vice-President's Remarks:** *Smoker thanked all for attending. "It's great to see the same people that I see at every meeting, it's great to see people I haven't seen at the meetings in a long time." There were no new members in attendance, and guests Chad Marchand and Angie Webb Darwin were introduced and welcomed. Both are Central and Sand Dunes Chapter members. Chad is Sand Dunes Chapter President. Scott B. was not able to attend due to Covid.*

### Officer Reports:

**Secretary's report:** Dale Morin

- Motion to accept the minutes as written - *Mitch B.* 2nd *Rick V* Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Christina Lincoln – *November Start: \$3661.95, Income: \$512.00, Expenses: \$1800.00, Spendable: \$2373.95. Jim K. was contacted by someone asking to validate the \$100.00 MRF sustaining membership was paid, that they didn't see it on the minutes. It was confirmed as motion passed in the Sept 4<sup>th</sup> minutes, and Christina verified it was paid, as was the \$200 donation to the Arne family for Dan's expenses. We will see that the treasurer's report reflects that in January.*

- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report - *Mike J.* 2nd *Cyndi B.* Motion passed.

**Chapter Rep Report:** Scott T. – *Scott welcomed all. Biker Day is fast approaching, as is the B.O.D. A few of us attended South Central Chapters Toys for Kids event; they got a couple big boxes of toys filled and some money from a silent auction. He still has Rally calendars available.*

### Committee Reports, Vice President:

**Membership:** Scott Bitzer – *Smoker proposed that an A.B.A.T.E. Lake Chapter membership makes a great Christmas gift for friends, family, as well as yourself. Smoker did not have any numbers from Scott.*

**Products:** Nikki Arne – *There are still license frames, T-shirts, stickers and other items available. Thank you Gaida for volunteering to take over the chapter products position. Thank you to Dan and Nikki for all they've done over the past years for their hard work with our products. Mitch completed the Chapter Calendars, and had them available for \$20.*

**Special Events:** Rick Van Horn – *The Ground Hogs party is just around the corner, silent and live auction items are accepted at the January meeting and on the day of the party. If you have tickets, turn them in to Rick at the next meeting or by the day of the party. He still has some available to check out if anyone needs more. He would like to know by the Jan or Feb meeting if the chapter would like to have a Spring Ride, so he can start organizing it, and hopefully have tickets printed by the March meeting. He would like to have it during motorcycle awareness month. Rick will be taking care of the final payment for the Rockford Town Hall next week. Jim K. provided the Grounded Hogs posters for us to distribute. Smoker added that these events don't happen on their own, we need everyone to help. We have front gate shifts to fill, bartending shifts, food and cleanup. This is a pot luck, so we are looking for food items to be brought. Rick should have signup sheets available at the next meeting.*

**Training and Education:** Sherry Edgett – *Lake Chapter is organizing motorcycle training classes through the MN Motorcycle Safety Center. Classes will be limited to 10 riders and will be at a discounted cost if filled. Participants do not need to be Lake Chapter members. Jim B. mentioned that Tri County may be interested in participating with us. We have requested May 21 for the Advanced class and May 22 for the Experienced class, to sign up, or for more information, contact Sherry at [lefty245@aol.com](mailto:lefty245@aol.com). The cost if we fill the classes with 10 participants each is \$50 for the Advanced, and \$30 for the Experienced.*

**Public Relations:** Mitch Backlund- *We will be doing a bowling fundraiser for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central MN at McPetes in Big Lake on Sunday January 16, 2022. If you would like to bowl or make a cash donation, please send an email to [lakechaptermn@gmail.com](mailto:lakechaptermn@gmail.com) for more information.*

**Buddy Bears:** Myra Van Horn – *Think about who we want to distribute our next order of Buddy Bears to. We can now donate them to the sheriff's departments. Consider some new places that we can donate them to.*

- Motion to accept the Committee reports - *Deb K.* 2nd *Jim B.* Motion passed.

### **Other Reports, President:**

**MRF Report:** Todd Riba- via Mack B. They had a very successful Meeting of the Minds last month, their membership is steadily growing.

**Dial-A-Ride:** Mike Edgett-It's great to see everyone. It's great that Lake chapter has taken care of each other over the years. Always remember there's that fall safety throughout the summer riding months, where you can call and have someone come and help if there's no other opportunity to get home safely; by all means call Dial-A-Ride. If there is anyone who doesn't know about Minnesota Dial-A-Ride program, contact Mike and he will be glad to tell you anything and everything about it. He didn't have more detailed information, but stated it was a successful year, and many lives were saved because of the support from folks like you that make that possible. Thank you for your efforts.

**Government Relations/Legislative Report:** Mack Backlund- Biker Day is back in 2022, it will be on Feb 16, 2022. On-line Registration on the A.B.A.T.E. of MN website is expected to be available next week. It's going to be very important to have a large turnout there, because we were shut out for quite some time, from face-to-face meetings. Legislation is a very person to person business, and when you can't do that, it loses something. Watch for more details. Let Mack know if you want to help out while we are there.

**MN Motorcycle Safety Task Force:** Mike Berger- via Mack they are back to zoom meetings. It takes a lot of time to find a successor to take the place of our A.B.A.T.E member and friend Bill Shaffer, who retired. They have delayed quite a bit, and now think they have somebody ready. Hopefully by the January meeting, that person will be ready to take over. They are working on their promotional items for next year; the safety messages and the tab renewal inserts, those types of things. He believes they have those pretty well straightened out. There are no current openings. It will be about a year and a half before the next opening, so keep that in mind if anyone wants to join. The meetings are open to the public, and if they are meeting in person, you get a free meal also.

**State Rally:** Keith "Smoker" Efron- Entertainment has not been finalized. If you know of a band you would like to see out there, contact Trashy, he will pass it on to Smoker. They will take all bands into consideration. They are looking at a couple of national acts for Saturday night. Fred initiated a discussion regarding local band vs national acts audience draw, and whether or not it would be more advantageous financially to bring in local bands. Smoker responded that he has heard that for years, but the entertainment comity responded dissentingly. Since he has been heading the entertainment comity, he has tasked the four district directors to bring him bands; two for Friday night, two for Sunday night. They have kind of paired back to one on Sunday night, two on Friday, and one opening act for the national act. The national act brings in about 250 people on Saturday night, just to see the national act. At \$20 per head, it significantly helps pay for the national act. He would love to have a bigger budget, but the more people we can get out to the Rally, the larger our war chest is for the following year. We haven't seemed to be able to break the 1000 people number for about the last 10 years. He thought the closest we've got was 989. The suggestion was raised that it would be nice to see a variety of music styles, and Smoker responded that in the past, Sunday night was Country night, but that if they can't get bands to agree to come play on Sunday night, they can't put them on. He could put them on Friday night, or Saturday night. The idea of a Country band opening for the national act has been mildly pushed. Again, it is who's willing to come out for what we are willing to pay them. There are a lot of bands that are hungry to get back out on the road, so that might work in our favor. The question was asked if we have to pay additional funds for national band extras like food, transportation, lodging, and Smoker answered that they are all included in the contract. We don't provide for excessive alcohol or things like that. It was also discussed about the possibility of having a separate ticket and price for admission to the national act only, but the added logistics it would require makes it unfeasible. If you have not done so, please plan to come to the State Rally. It is never too early to think about businesses and individuals to sponsor the rally. Thank you Mitch for stepping up, and taking on the sponsorship position. 2022 sponsorship forms should be available at the January B.O.D. meeting.

**Drawing of the Name** Mike Edgett- Lori Gilles won a \$5 off gift certificate.

**Old Business:** None

#### **New Business:**

Nikki Arne was unanimously voted in as Chapter Member of the Year.

The SJK award was presented to Dan Arne, accepted on his behalf by Nikki.

A pass the hat for Toys for Tots raised \$750.00, and will be added to our on air donation on the Dec 10 KARE 11 5:00 newscast.

For those interested, please be at the station by 4:40. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, only a 5 person group will be on camera.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

- Dec 10<sup>th</sup> - Toys for Tots donation 5:00pm KARE 11, be at the station by 4:40.*
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup> - Gathering at Dave's Town Club, Delano with the Knees' @ 5:00pm*
- Jan 8<sup>th</sup> - Lake Chapter meeting Red Lodge, Waverly 3:00pm*
- Jan 8<sup>th</sup> - Sand Dunes meeting at noon and Christmas Party 1:00-4:00 <https://www.sanddunesabate.org/events/holiday-party>*
- Jan 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> - BOD Wilmar MN*
- Jan 16<sup>th</sup> - Bowling fundraiser for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central MN at McPetes in Big Lake @ 2:00pm*
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup> - Chapter meeting, Rockford Township Hall, 3:00pm*
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup> - Grounded Hogs party, Rockford Township Hall, doors open at 5:00pm*
- Feb 16<sup>th</sup> - Biker Day at the Capital, St. Paul*
- Mar 5<sup>th</sup> - Chapter meeting, Hollywood Roadhouse, New Germany 3:00pm*
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Chapter meeting, Red Vest, Rockford 3:00pm*

*After an extended stay in Hospice, Mary Berger's mother passed away on Tuesday Dec 30<sup>th</sup>. Please send your condolences to Mary and Mike Berger. Please keep Mary and the rest of her family in your thoughts as they struggle through this difficult time.*

- Motion to adjourn - Buzz P. 2nd Deb K. Motion Passed

Minutes submitted by Dale Morin

**Motion passed at the December 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

- Motion to accept the minutes as written
- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report
- Motion to accept the Committee reports
- Motion to adjourn