

January 2023
State Coordinator Report

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year with friends and family. Here's to a better year of fun and progress moving forward.

So, what's going on at the State level? Hang on here we go:

A vote went out to direct a change, and we will be moving towards becoming a 501c3. This change will make us a tax-deductible charitable organization. Some have stated that we will no longer be able to do legislative things. No, not true, we will be able to do everything we have been doing in the past. We will need to track our legislative spending and will have a cap on what we spend. We will also not be able to on a state or chapter level, give money to a candidate or fund a political issue. We do not do that now. What's the next step? We will be working on 'Articles of Incorporation and new Bylaws. With some small changes, we will still be using the bylaws we have now. Barb Hunter is currently working on the Articles of Incorporation. When approved by the attorney they will come to you, the membership, for approval. My goal is to have this done within a year before we need to get re-licensed with the State Gambling Commission.

Nominations will be accepted at the Board of Directors meeting (BOD) on January 7, 2023, at the Buckley Eagles for the following positions: Sr Deputy Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, and Eastside Ambassador. These will be for a two-year term. Unfortunately, Mac McCarter has to step down as Westside Ambassador due to family needs. I will be asking for people that are interested in the position to step forward and I will appoint a person to fill that position for a one-year term, per bylaws. I want to thank Mac for his service over the past 6 months. He accomplished a lot in a short time. If you are interested in one of the positions, please check the bylaws and policies to see the requirements and job descriptions.

Signs approved at BOD are in and look great! A small change was made as requested by North Kitsap and it was a great idea. There will be two signs given to each of the chapters to place at their discretion. The rest will be available from state products for \$ 100.00 each. Please try and get them out near the road on private property, not on the public right way that State, County, or City will remove them and throw them away.

Raffle tickets are available from your chapter coordinators. All tickets will be checked out per chapter, not to a person. When filling them out make sure they are legible with real names, road names are NOT allowed. We want to make sure we are doing these tickets correctly. Thank you for doing your part! If you have any questions contact Guy Crawford, his contact info is on the State Web page.

The proposal to raise the membership age to 21 should have been discussed at your chapter meeting. First and foremost, I agree that people 18 are adults and should be able to do whatever they want based on that. We allow them to fight for our country, they should be allowed to drink and make any other adult decisions. The problem we have as ABATE is fairness and meeting the law and reducing liability to ABATE of Washington. Our Bylaws say that anyone 18 years of age can be a member. The bylaws also state any member can attend any ABATE functions. The Spring Opener for the following reasons is a 21 or older event. Liability Insurance requirements or cost: yes we can pay more for insurance and allow those under 21 to attend however at an increased cost. This will also increase the cost of security to meet the requirements put on us by law enforcement. The current landowner where we have the event does not want under-21-year-olds allowed due to the drinking. In Kittitas County, it was a county requirement for a permit. Lastly, it increases liability for ABATE of Washington. This is a tough position that we are placed in.

Black Friday will be held on January 20, 2023. We have acquired the permits for the 'ride-in' to assemble on the Capitol steps and north diagonal parking. The Columbia room has been reserved for the day. There will be no overnight events or hotel accommodations. Please make sure you are contacting your Legislators regarding Right shoulder riding and lane sharing. We would like to get these

bills sponsored and approved.

Change is difficult and I can understand that we are not all going to agree. We must all respect each other's opinion and move ABATE of Washington forward. We have an opportunity for you to make a great organization that is at the front of motorcycle rights, safety and education, and that also provides some great events throughout the year.

Watch for vehicles because they sure are not watching for you...

Andy McAfee
Abate of Washington
State Coordinator

