

Time for the Black Friday Wrap Up!

Happy February ABATE!

It's time to catch everyone up on how our January 2025 Black Friday landed.

Thursday Night the Olympia VFW #318 donated a room for us to have a pre-session Legislative Overview. We did some sharing of how the process works, how to talk to a legislator, and some role playing. State Coordinator- Andy McAfee and State Legislative Officer- Larry Walker were good sports when Assistant MRF Representative- Jo Breneman, suggested the role play. 30 people came to take away something from the event. Big thanks to Olympia VFW and Alan Acosta of our proposed Capitol City Chapter for setting that up for ABATE!

The WA COC led riders came through the fog and ice, to stand together to make Motorcycle Rights a priority! A total of 82 people signed in at the State Capitol for this event. 25 legislators or their representatives showed for the outstanding Grab & Go breakfast, laid out by Monika Scotti. 29 legislative connections were made with 2 legislators offered to sponsor bills, as a result of meeting with them. Travis Herseim of Columbia Gorge Chapter was given the award for the rider who rode the furthest to Black Friday. Congratulations to Travis for setting the frosty bar on that one! Honorable mention to Spokane Chapter members for flying out to join the legislative efforts, as well! Lewis County showed in force with 14 members in attendance! Well done everyone! Awards will be given at Spring Opener for the largest chapter % attending and largest group attendees.

Ambassador At Large- Chad Holtquist and State Coordinator-Andy McAfee, led us in the pledge of allegiance, and introduced our speakers on the steps. Lifetime ABATE member Senator Matt Boehnke (8th District) was asked to speak by Tri Cities Chapter Coordinator- Kathy "Kat" Bolton. Riding Senator Drew MacEwen(35th District) , and long time supporter Representative Michelle Caldier (26th District) made time to rally and speak with us as well! A hearty thanks to all for their ongoing support!

We made multiple positive connections throughout, and had a room filled with like minded riders, elected representatives, people from the Dept of Licensing- Motorcycle Safety Program, WSTC- Motorcycle Safety Program Manager, and more! Building bridges and creating relationships and dialogue was in the air.

Our bills and talking points done by Louise Bentley-Tacoma Chapter LAO outlined the following : SB 5309 Weight Fee Bill- a creation of a motorcycle weight class category, lowering the weight fee for motorcycles. Right Shoulder Riding- Bill HB 1367 improving motorcycle safety of limited access roads at speeds of 25mph or less , and Lane Sharing (Bill sponsor pending) for motorcycle safety.

Also, to the delight of many of the Capitol ladies, Alan Alder brought in some flowers

and our members made bouquets, and passed out flowers to dozens of ladies throughout the day! Thank you Alan for that thoughtful touch!

Pins were also given to everyone who signed in as a thank you for attending.

Keep an eye out for these bills, any Call to Actions or Social Media posts regarding them, as well as others that affect riders. Please share them far and wide, so we can get some serious traction and support this year.

All in all, it was a well organized and strong showing in the halls of the Capitol and one that ABATE of Washington can be proud of.

See you on the steps, next year!

~Kim Adair

Black Friday Committee Chair

*As a personal note- I'd like to thank the Black Friday Committee for their commitment and dedication to creating a well organized event for our membership and legislators, and our fellow members and riding brothers and sisters in Washington supporting Freedom of the Road.