

Welcome to the beginning of winter months!

We should have just finished STEAM and BOD. Hopefully a number of you were able to attend STEAM and learn what it is to become an officer. A number of the chapters have new officers. I wish you all success in the future. If there is anything I can do to help you, please let me know. My goal is to grow ABATE membership bigger than ever so that we can have influence in Olympia

Where I am not going to comment directly on any particular topic or drama, I would ask that all of the membership refrain from public comments, derogatory towards ABATE or other members of ABATE in any public forum. ABATE is a 'Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments'. The term 'Brotherhood' has been diminished in our society. We can all do better to bring true 'Brotherhood' back to our society. That means if you have a problem with someone go directly to them and have an adult conversation. As a brother, if a fellow brother or sister comes to you and has a problem you need to be open and honest to accept criticism. If we truly care about each other, which we should, this all really needs to stop. Stop hiding behind keyboards and the internet. I was always taught, if you don't have something nice to say about a brother, don't say anything at all. When I talk about 'Brotherhood' I mean the same about 'Sisterhood' or any other 'hood' you want to call it. I am using the term in a non-gender context. Those of you who know me, know that I have a very short fuse for BS. If I come to you with a concern, it's not personal, it's for what is best for ABATE of Washington.

ABATE of Washington was one of the sponsors of the Oyster Run this year. We staffed a booth there. For those of you who stopped to say hi, it was nice to see you. And for those who joined at the Oyster Run, welcome to ABATE of Washington. We look forward to you getting involved with your local chapter, having fun and riding. ABATE will look to be at as many motorcycle events in the State of Washington as we can. That creates a need for more people to volunteer and step up to staff these events.

As I write this, our legislative agenda has not been set. This was done at STEAM and confirmed at the October BOD. I am sure our Legislative Affairs Officer, Larry Walker, will be all over the top three items approved at BOD and we look forward to your support in contacting your legislators in January 2023. Before that, I would encourage you to find out who your two state representatives are and your state Senator, from your district. I would encourage you to send them all a simple email, introducing yourself as a constituent of theirs and a member of ABATE. This lets them know who you are and that you have priorities both personally and for ABATE that you will be talking with them or emailing them in the future.

As always, take care of yourselves, ride hard and if needed, get out the rain gear and ride!

Andy McAfee
State Coordinator
ABATE of Washington