

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

a Newsletter for Motorcycle Safety & Awareness

ISSUE 416



MARCH 2018



A MERICAN
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A IMING
T OWARD
E DUCATION



**NEXT
CHAPTER
MEETING
10 AM
March 18,
2018**

at American Legion
Post 222



LET THOSE WHO
RIDE DECIDE!



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**To Advertise in this Publication,
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Member in this list.**

WATCH
FOR
MOTORCYCLES

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flabate@bellsouth.net - (386) 943-9610 (voice & fax)

WATCH
FOR
MOTORCYCLES

WHO WE ARE

- ABATE of Florida, Inc. is a non–profit organization of motorcycle enthusiasts from all walks of life.
- We lobby and educate the government and the general public to promote motorcycling in a safe and positive image.
- We endeavor to enlist the cooperation and participation of all organizations and individuals that share a similar interest in preserving our American tradition of FREEDOM.
- We promote motorcycle safety, training, and political awareness.
- We fund our work by holding a series of annual events at different locations within our service area and other motorcycle activities.
- We are your neighbors and friends who work, pay taxes, and get involved with our community.
- We serve and support our country and believe in freedom.
- We use all legal means to protect our rights without infringing on the rights of others.
- ABATE of Florida, Inc. is incorporated under the laws of Florida as a motorcycle rights organization or MRO. We are currently the only political MRO in Florida representing the interest of its members and the motorcycling public at-large.
- WE ARE NOT A CLUB OR A GANG.

ABATE is open to all individuals age 18 and older interested in motorcycle rights, safety or education. It doesn't matter what you ride or even if you ride. Everyone is welcome to join ABATE of Florida, Inc., which ensures YOUR opinion and views on motorcycle laws will be heard.

There are no requirements to join us and we respect and welcome all motorcycle clubs or any other motorcycle associations or organizations. We do not have any mandatory meetings or rides.

Paid Membership Includes:

- ABATE Voting Privileges
- Free \$4,000 Accidental Death or Dismemberment Insurance Policy from the American Income Life Insurance Company. As long as your membership is current, you are covered.
- Free classified advertising in the Southeast Chapter and State ABATE newsletters.
- Motorcycle Safety and Educational Updates.
- A full-time ABATE of Florida, Inc. lobbyist who fights for your rights at the state and national levels.



FREEDOM IS NEVER FREE, WE HAVE TO FIGHT TO KEEP IT

Stand up for your right to choose - join Florida's only Motorcycle Rights Organization that got the Helmet Law removed in 2000 **& stopped it AGAIN in 2017!**

Make your voice heard - ABATE of Florida, Inc.'s lobbyist is in Tallahassee working for or against, all legislation that affects your lives, your rights & your freedoms. Not just as Motorcycle Riders but as Free Americans.

Help make a difference - by supporting ABATE of Florida, Inc.'s Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Program (MSAP). ABATE's Certified instructors bring the MSAP into our High School Drivers Education classes. This is the only program in the state that teaches Florida students to **WATCH FOR MOTORCYCLES**. The first step in teaching drivers how to not run us over.

Become informed – ABATE of Florida, Inc. Southeast chapter publishes a monthly newsletter (online & in print) that provides first-hand knowledge of legislative updates, bills & regulations that are being proposed, introduced or up for vote in the Florida House and/or Senate, as well as some regulations coming out of the Federal Government that affect or could affect us as riders.

The more members and voters we have, the more pressure our lobbyist can put on Lawmakers to pass legislation that helps us and stop legislation that hurts us. Join us not only in our fight for our freedoms, but also in the camaraderie in the brotherhood/sisterhood of ABATE of Florida, Inc.

Isn't your freedom worth \$20.00 a year? Join us now.

See Page 47 for Membership Application



From Your President



Greetings brothers and sisters, thank you for picking up and reading our 416th issue of our chapter's monthly newsletter, and Happy Saint Patrick's Day – "Érinn Go Brách!!!"

Critter and I were summoned to Tallahassee for the February State meeting as there were issues pertaining to one of our sister chapters to the north that may have consequences that will affect the entire corporation. For more on what happened at the state meeting, see Critter's State Representative's report in the monthly minutes. Afterwards, we had a great time as we joined the ride to the Capital as a support vehicle. You can see video of that and the entire proceedings on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ABATEofFloridaSEChapter>).

We had a couple of esteemed guests from one of our sister chapters (Peace River Chapter) at our February chapter meeting. Their Vice President (and State Officer of Elections for about eight years now, give or take) Mr. Bill Bird. His lovely companion and Peace River Chapter's Secretary, Kimmy Hollan, joined Bill. After the meeting, Billy, Kimmy, Critter and myself rode out to Café 27 for lunch. What a great ride and hangout session it was, lunch was good too. We also met up with Jimmy-Les and Suzanne at Café 27, and we showed our honored guests the Biker Memorial Garden where we will be putting the plaque for our chapter's once former secretary Paul A. Melcer, GBNF. For a more detailed update on the status of Paul's memorial plaque, refer to the VP's article in the next few pages.

Many thanks for coming down and over to attend our chapter meeting and accompany us to lunch Billy & Kimmy! It was great to see you both again so soon after the state meeting and we're looking forward to the next state meeting as (for those who may not know already) your chapter is hosting it!

The last thing I would like to convey, but most assuredly not least, goes to whom so ever may pick up this newsletter to read it that is not a member. If you are a motorcycle rider,

no matter what make or model, or just a motorcycle enthusiast, or someone who is a family member of a rider or enthusiast, I would strongly urge you to consider becoming a member. I cordially invite you to attend our next chapter meeting in order to get a better idea of how we operate and what we stand for.

May the Irish hills caress you. May her lakes and rivers bless you. May the luck of the Irish enfold you. May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you.

Also with that, I'd like to thank everyone for his or her continued support of our chapter and state organization and as always...

May Saint Christopher, Holy Patron of Travelers, guide and protect you and your loved ones so that you may RIDE FREE AND RIDE SAFE my brothers and sisters!!!



With Honor and Respect,
William G. "MAGNETO" Prewitt, President
ABATE of Florida, Inc.
Southeast Chapter



WELCOME



New Members for February

Patrick "Pornstache" Levy

Robert "Kid" Geith

Ray "Half Dawg" DeJesus

Fred Ackerman

Rick "Big Papa" Morales

Membership Due For March

Angel Vega

Delora Petress

Douglas S "Pervert" Warner

Frank Scalzo III

John "Lil John" Bryant

John "Shakey" DiMartino

Jon Viger

Jordan "Wildone" Paikoff

Kim Loughlin

Leopold Kerr "Spree" Stewart

Ray "Rainman" Purcell

Scott "Eroil" Miessau

Terrance "Terrible T" Splett

Tripton H "Trip" Carris

William "Die Hard" Adams

Dr. Ed Borzumato

Gary Wilcox

If you have already renewed

Thank You

for your continued support



For Membership Renewals contact Sheila Rose by either email: membership@abatese.us or by phone: 786-487-4810 - See Page 47 for Membership Application

*** PLEASE NOTE ***

You have 30 days from the last day of your expiration month to renew your membership, or be deleted from the State's List. Also (very important) be sure to notify us of any changes.



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BENEFITS REMINDER: All ABATE members in good standing are provided a fully paid group \$4000 in Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit at no cost to the member. Often members have questions regarding the coverage and/or are interested in changing their beneficiary or getting additional coverage. Please feel free to contact our local representative, Bill Sauers at American Incomeve Life, or visit the website for answers to your questions.



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BRAD WINSTON



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AND IN THE COURTS**



**Southeast Chapter Meeting Minutes
Held at American Legion Post 222
Oakland Park, FL
February 18, 2018**

Johnny Rose, standing in for Nighthawk, called the meeting to order at 10:05am by standing up and asking everyone to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for people who lost their lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. There were 17 members present.

President's Report :Magneto thanked everyone for coming out. He welcomed Bill Bird, Vice President of the Peace River Chapter and Officer of Elections for the State, and his lovely companion Kimmy, the Secretary of Peace River Chapter. At the past State meeting, Doc spoke about an incident with another chapter. The delegation suggested that all chapters implement a security plan for all future events. Magneto brought up the fact that we will be creating accident report kits and implementing their use at our Memorial Day Event.

Vice President's Report: Johnny Rose gave Critter the invoice for the plaque for Paul

Melcer. He thanked JR for helping him work with American Trophy to get us a great quote. He also thanked Jimmy Les who will be getting the concrete base for the memorial plaque at Café 27. Paul Melcer was the Secretary for our Chapter for over 20 years.

Secretary's Report: Sheila Rose called for a motion to accept the minutes as printed, motion made, seconded, and all were in favor. Motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Critter read the Treasurer's Report for January. A motion was made to accept the report, seconded, and all were in favor. Motion was passed.

Sergeant at Arm's Report: Nighthawk was excused. As we all know he works for Broward County Public Schools and is helping to clean up Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Road Captain's Report: This position is open.

Safety Director's Report: This position is open.

State Representative's Report: Critter said that Shelly, the State Secretary, is back and doing

well. The membership incentive program ends in April so the chapter membership trustees need to make sure they get everything in to the state as soon as possible. The incentives will be given out at the June state meeting. While we do not endorse any candidate, Doc talked about a candidate for governor who has been actively supporting ABATE. A video of Adam Putnam showing his support can be found on our Facebook page. **HB2103**, the bill to get our safety money back, has passed its first committees with a unanimous vote. It has one more to go and it will most likely pass. **HB215 and SB504** are the bills that would re-classify auto-cycles as motorcycles. Although Doc testified against the Senate bill, it looks like these bills are going to pass. However, we've been told that auto-cycles will be placed into a separate category under motorcycle, similar to how mopeds are classified. If that happens auto-cycle incidents would not be included in motorcycle statistics. **HB583 and SB346** are the helmet bills designed to increase the minimum age requirement to ride a moped without a helmet. The Senate bill has passed its first committee and the House bill has not come up for a committee vote yet. One of the sponsors of the House bill has guaranteed Doc that he will squash the bill if someone tries to attach an amendment that would affect us. **HB419**, the bill that would require motorcycles to carry PIP, has pretty much been tabled for now. Logic states that legislatures are waiting to see if the PIP repeal goes through. **SB116 and HB117**, also known as the "move over bill," are now at an impasse. The bicyclists that were supposedly supporting us, put in an amendment to remove

the word "motorcycle" from the House bill. The House bill has now been retitled "Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety" and is no longer showing as a companion bill to SB116. They tried to add the same amendment to the Senate bill and it didn't work. **HB33 and SB90** would make texting while driving a primary offense, which means that drivers could be pulled over just for texting. The House bill has passed all of its committees with a unanimous vote. The Senate bill has one more committee to go but has already passed 3 of its 4 committees with a unanimous vote. The ride to the capital went well and Paul Melcer's name was read at during the ringing of the bell. The entire ceremony can be seen on our Facebook page. The 2017 rifle drawing made a nice profit and we will be doing another rifle drawing this December. Critter has drawing tickets, so please see her to sign some out and help us sell them. Nominations for State Board positions have opened up. The election for State Offices will be held at the June meeting. Critter was nominated for 2 positions and has already accepted the nomination for Masterlink Editor. The next State meeting is April 14th hosted by Peace River Chapter.

Products Report: This position is open. Sheila currently has the products at her home. If anyone would like to volunteer to do products, they should talk to Magneto. We will have products for sale at our Memorial Day event. If anyone wants products before then, please call Sheila Rose and she will make arrangements to meet you.

Membership Report: Sheila Rose reported

that membership is going well. We had 13 new members and 15 renewals since our last meeting in January.

Events Coordinator: This position is open.

Newsletter Editor: Critter said that articles are due today. We have a few potential new advertisers showing interest in the newsletter. All in all the newsletter is going very well.

Newsletter Distribution: Poppie was excused. Critter and Magneto did 25 stops for this past newsletter distribution and Johnny did the rest. If anyone in the membership would like to help, please let Critter or Magneto know. Look on page 45 to see the distribution locations.

Legislative Report: Brad was excused.

Legal Counsel: Brad was excused.

Public Relations: Fern was excused.

Billing and Invoicing: Sheila reported that all current advertisers are up to date.

Social Director: Sandy brought cupcakes for the February birthdays.

Quartermaster's Report: Bob Anz was excused.

Photographer's Report: Barry has been taking pictures and sending them to Critter.

Webmaster's Report: Rogue was excused.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Critter asked the membership if anyone would want to help sell tickets for the December rifle drawing. If so, please see her after the meeting.

Good of the Order: Johnny said we have flyers on the front table for events going on in the community. Please come check them out and support the local M/C's. We then passed the hat for a collection from the members to help with the cost of Paul's memorial plaque. Jimmy Les invited everyone to the Keltics open house every Friday night at 8pm. Keltics are having their annual party on March 18th at JP Mulligans.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called for at 10:55am. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

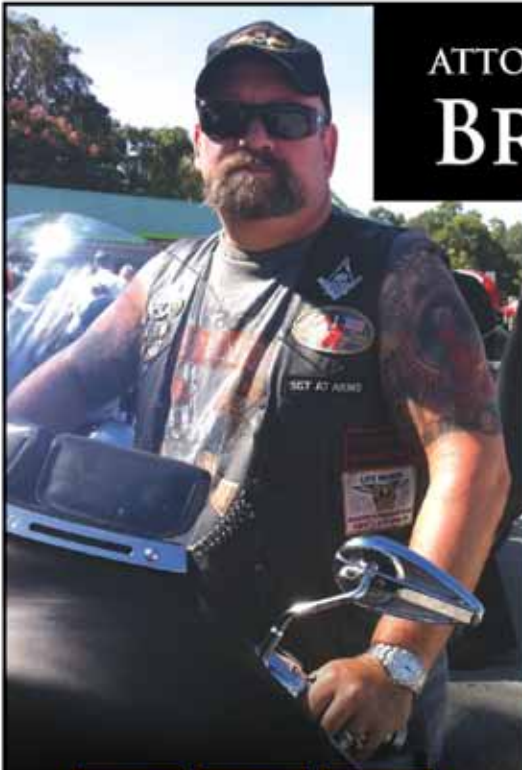
Our next Chapter meeting is March 18, 2018 at the American Legion Post 222, in Oakland Park, FL. See you all at our next meeting!!

Four wheels move the body. Two wheels move the soul.

~ Author unknown

Sheila Rose
Secretary,
Southeast Chapter





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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

Wow!! Since my last article, it has been an awesome time for events and parties. The Dania Beach Vintage Motorcycle Show was really good, after a little morning rain. We had a lot of people around our booth all day. Our location was in a great spot and Diddles was a good draw. I would like to thank Clare Frost for everything she did and for giving us the good location. It is my favorite event of the whole year because I get to see bikes I rode when I was 10 years old.

We went to a lot of parties after that. First, we went to the Der Krieger MC Annual at Cagney's. It was beautiful day and we saw lots of friends. The following weekend, we went to the US Military Vets MC (Dirty Dozen) Annual in Homestead. It was a beautiful long ride down there and back, and a great party. The day after that, we tagged along with States MC in Pompano Beach to States MC in Lake Worth for their Annual. It was another good ride.

I got to take my beautiful wife to an awesome party at AOA MC Annual Valentine's Party. They had a good turn-out and I actually won a door prize. Cool!

Scurvy Few MC's Pirate Party was at one of my favorite places, Mickey's. It was a good party but we only got to stay for a few hours as we had plans to go to Monster Jam for my grandson's birthday. Go Grave Digger!

I can't wait to finish out the rest of February with the Wheels of Man MC Annual.

As you know, most of us bikers have a soft spot for children. We are all deeply saddened by the recent massacre in Parkland, Florida. Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers go out to the families, teachers, and friends of everyone at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. May God hold them close during these dark days.

God bless America!!!!

ANYONE WHO RIDES SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF ABATE!!!!

Peace,
Johnny Rose
Vice President
Southeast Chapter



DOUBLE SUNS - TWISTED MIRRORS



EPISODE I

BY

CHARLEY BLACKWOLF



UPDATE: Bills in the House & Senate



HB 215 This is the bill that is trying to classify the new “autocycles” as motorcycles

General Bill by Rep. Bobby Payne (Republican-District 19) and Rep. Joseph Geller (Democrat-District 100) Autocycles; Defines “autocycle” & revises definition of “motorcycle”; requires safety belt usage by autocycle operator/passenger; authorizes autocycle operation without motorcycle endorsement; provides applicability. Effective Date: 7/1/2018

Last Action: Passed its three committees. It has had its third reading and is in messages. Related bill: SB 504

.....
SB 504 Autocycles

General Bill by Senator Keith Perry (Republican-District 8) Autocycles; Defining the term “autocycle”; requiring safety belt or, if applicable, child restraint usage by an operator or passenger of an autocycle; including an autocycle in the definition of the term “motorcycle”; authorizing a person to operate an autocycle without a motorcycle endorsement, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018

Last Action: Passed its three committees. It has been placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading.

.....
HB 583 Motorcycle and Moped Riders

General Bill by Rep. Charles Wesley “Chuck” Clemons, Sr. (Republican-District 21) Motorcycle and Moped Riders; Increases age at which person operating or riding upon certain motorcycle or moped is exempt from protective headgear requirements; requires moped registered to person under 21 years of age to display license plate; provides penalty. Effective Date: 7/1/2018

Last Action: Referred to Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee; Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Government Accountability Committee. Related bill: CS/SB 346

.....
CS/SB 346 Motorcycle and Moped Riders

General Bill by Senator Keith Perry (Republican-District 8) Motorcycle and Moped Riders; Increasing the age at which persons who are operating or riding upon a certain motorcycle or a moped are exempt from protective headgear requirements; requiring a moped registered to a person under a specified age to display a license plate that is unique in design and color, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018

Last Action: Passed Transportation and has been read for the first time.

.....
HB 117 Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety [Originally filed as Operation of Vehicles (a/k/a the “move over bill”)]

General Bill by Rep. Charlie Stone (Republican-District 19); Co-Introducers - Hahnfeldt; Stark This bill has been amended to remove the word “motorcycle” and now only pertains to bicycles, pedestrians, and nonmotorized vehicles. Therefore we will no longer report on this bill, unless something changes that status. This bill is no longer related to SB 116.

.....
SB 116 Operation of Vehicles (a/k/a Vulnerable Road Users bill)

General Bill by Senator Dennis Baxley (Republican-District 12); Co-Introducers - Passidomo; Book Operation of Vehicles; Requiring drivers to vacate lanes closest to, or reduce speed and pass, vulnerable road users, authorized emergency, sanitation, and utility service vehicles or workers, and wrecker operators under certain circumstances, subject to certain requirements, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018

Last Action: Referred to Transportation; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations (This bill no longer has a companion House bill.)

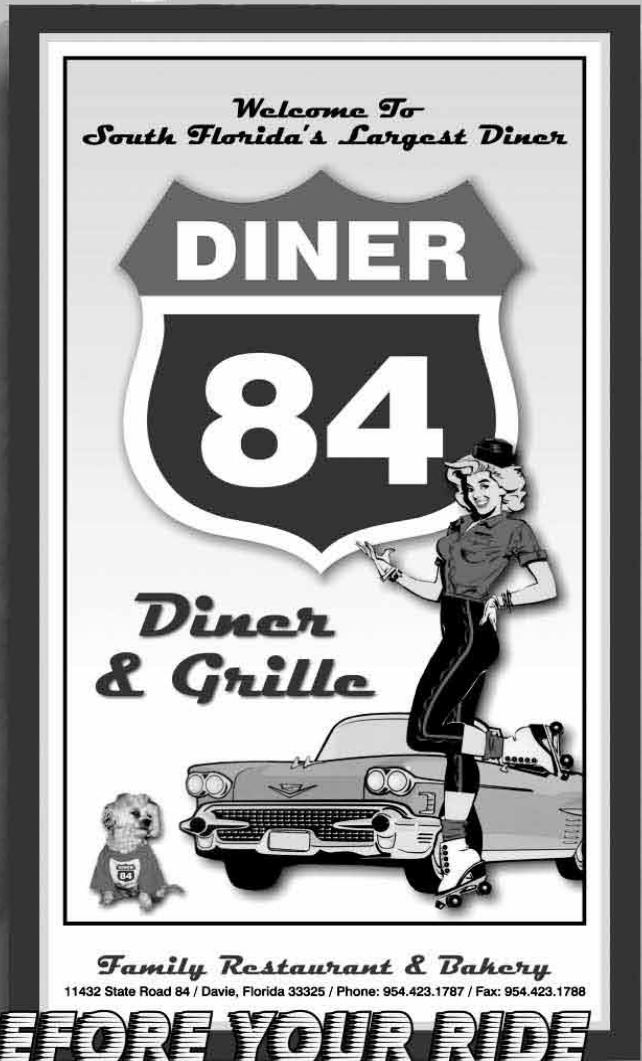
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UPDATE: Bills in the House & Senate *Con't. from page 17*

CS/SB 90 Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving

General Bill by Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; Sen. Perry; Co-Introducers - Garcia; Mayfield; Rodriguez; Campbell; Baxley; Stewart; Taddeo

Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving; Revising the legislative intent relating to the authorization of law enforcement officers to stop motor vehicles and issue citations to persons who are texting while driving; requiring deposit of fines into the Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund; requiring a law enforcement officer to inform a person who is stopped for texting while driving of the person's right to decline a search of his or her wireless communications device, etc. Effective Date: 10/1/2018

Last Action: Has passed 3 committees and is now in Appropriations. Related bill: CS/CS/HB 33

CS/CS/HB 33 Texting While Driving

General Bill by Government Accountability Committee; Judiciary Committee; Jackie Toledo (R-District 60); Emily Slosberg (D-District 91)

Texting While Driving; Requires law enforcement officer to inform motor vehicle operator of certain rights; prohibits certain actions by officer; requires officer to record race & ethnicity of violator when issuing citation; requires law enforcement agencies to report such information to DHSMV; requires DHSMV to annually report certain data to Governor & Legislature; removes requirement that enforcement be accomplished as secondary action. Effective Date: 7/1/2018

Last Action: Has passed 3 committees and has been placed on Special Order Calendar, 02/28/18

HB 419 Seeks to require insurance for motorcycles

General Bill by Rep. Don Hahnfeldt (R-District 33)

Motor Vehicle Insurance: Revises definitions of "motor vehicle," "motor vehicle insurance," & "policy" to include motorcycles in provisions relating to financial responsibility for property damage, regulation of insurance rates, motor vehicle insurance contracts, & Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

Last Event: Referred to Insurance and Banking Subcommittee; Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee; Commerce Committee (At this time there has not been a companion bill filed in the Senate.)

CS/SB 150 Motor Vehicle Insurance

General Bill by Banking and Insurance; Senator Tom Lee (R-District 20)

Motor Vehicle Insurance; Repealing provisions relating to application of the Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law; revising garage liability insurance requirements for motor vehicle dealer applicants; requiring specified motor vehicle liability insurance policies to include medical payments coverage; providing insurers a civil cause of action against certain persons who are convicted of or plead guilty or nolo contendere to certain acts of insurance fraud associated with claims for medical payments coverage benefits, etc. Eff. Date: 1/1/2019

Last Action: Passed the Banking and Insurance committees and has had its first reading.

CS/HB 19 Motor Vehicle Insurance

General Bill by Commerce Committee; Rep. Erin Grall (R-District 54); Co-Introducers - Grant, J.; Hahnfeldt Motor Vehicle Insurance; Creates Responsible Roadways Act; revises security requirements & proof of such security for owners & operators of motor vehicles; repeals Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law. Effective Date: 1/1/2019

Last Action: Passed its three committees. Had its third reading and is in messages. Related bill CS/SB 150

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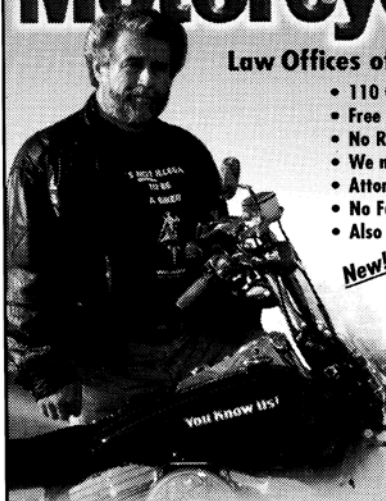
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NEWS from our State Legislative Rep - Darrin "Scribe" Brooks

SUPREME COURT EYES RED LIGHT CAMERA REVIEWS

TALLAHASSEE --- Luis Torres Jimenez admits he made a right turn at a red light when he wasn't supposed to, but he still wants his ticket quashed. The fate of Jimenez's 2011 citation --- issued after a red-light camera captured an image of his illegal turn --- now rests in the hands of the state's highest court. But several justices appeared skeptical Wednesday as Jimenez's lawyers tried to persuade the court that the way the city of Aventura handles citations issued to motorists caught on camera is unlawful.

Jimenez's lawyers contended the city had illegally given "unfettered discretion" to a red-light camera company to review images of potential violations and to print and send out citations. A Miami judge threw out Jimenez's ticket, but the 3rd District Court of Appeal overturned that decision and asked the Supreme Court to weigh in on the issue.

Wednesday's arguments in the case centered on the role that American Traffic Solutions, Inc. --- a major player in the industry --- has in handling red-light traffic violations. The company sorts through images and puts them into two databases --- a "working" database that police review for possible traffic violations and a "non-working" database that police do not use for ticketing motorists. In sorting through the images, the company considers issues such as whether cameras have misfired and whether license plates are legible. It also reviews photos of cars entering and going through intersections. Up to 35 percent of the images are rejected, according to court documents. The rest are given to city traffic enforcement officials, who decide whether to issue citations or not.

SENATE READY TO TAKE UP CHURCH GUN BILL The Senate is scheduled Thursday to take up a bill that could help clear the way for people with concealed-weapons licenses to carry guns at churches. The proposal (SB 1048), sponsored by Sen. Dennis Baxley, R-Ocala, has been backed by Republican lawmakers who contend it could help prevent incidents such as a massacre last year at a Texas church. But the bill has been opposed by Democrats and narrowly passed two committees in 6-4 and 7-5 votes. Under current law, people with concealed-weapons licenses can carry guns at churches and other religious institutions, but they are prevented from doing so if schools are on the property. The bill seeks to allow people to carry guns at churches that have schools, though it would prevent carrying firearms during school hours or when school extracurricular activities take place. A House version of the bill (HB 1419) does not include the restrictions related to school hours or extracurricular activities. That version, sponsored by Dover Republicans Ross Spano and Lawrence McClure, has cleared committees and is positioned to go to the full House.

TOUGHER TEXTING WHILE DRIVING BAN CONTINUES MOVING Legislation that would make texting while driving a "primary" traffic offense continued to move forward Thursday, as it cleared the House Judiciary Committee. Currently, texting while driving is a "secondary" offense, meaning motorists can only be cited if they are pulled over for other reasons. But under the legislation (HB 33 and SB 90), it would become a primary offense, which would allow police to stop drivers for texting behind the wheel. Rep. Emily Slosberg, a Boca Raton Democrat who is co-sponsoring the House bill and whose twin sister Dori died in a car accident 22 years ago, said the law needs to change as drivers of all ages continue to text and drive every day. "We all do it. It's a culture on our roadways," she said. "In the last two years, motor vehicle fatalities have jumped by the largest two-year increase

**BLACK
SUN**

**WHITE
SAND**

BY CHARLEY BLACKWOLF

in more than five decades." Co-sponsor Jackie Toledo, R-Tampa, said Florida had more than 50,000 distracted-driving crashes in 2016, resulting in more than 200 fatalities. The Judiciary Committee approved the House bill but did not agree to a proposed change that would have required police to record the race and ethnicity of drivers when writing tickets for texting while driving. A Senate panel this week added that requirement to the Senate version of the bill because of concerns about racial profiling of minorities. The House and Senate bills each must clear one more committee before going to the full chambers. At least 39 other states make texting while driving a primary traffic offense.

ROUSON SCRAPS FELONS' RIGHTS PROPOSAL Voters this fall won't be faced with competing proposals aimed at restoring voting rights to felons who have completed their sentences and paid restitution. Sen. Darryl Rouson, a St. Petersburg Democrat who serves on the Florida Constitution Revision Commission, on Wednesday withdrew from consideration a proposed constitutional amendment that would automatically restore civil rights for most felons, with an exception for those convicted of violent crimes. Rouson axed the plan because a citizen-backed initiative that would automatically restore voting rights for felons, except for murderers and sex offenders, has been approved as Amendment 4 on the November ballot. Rouson told the Constitution Revision Commission's Declaration of Rights Committee he was an advocate of rights restoration "before it became popular" and that he was reluctant to withdraw his proposal because he thought it had a better chance of passing than the amendment that will go before voters. "So it hurts me to some extent that I'm withdrawing this. But I pray that in doing so we make it clear that redemption's time has come, that we must pass the amendment that's been put on by the citizens and approved by the Supreme Court," he said. Like all constitutional amendments, the "Voting Restoration Amendment" requires 60 percent approval by voters for passage.

JUDGE RULES AGAINST STATE ON RIGHTS RESTORATION Describing an arbitrary system that gives "unfettered discretion" to the governor and state Cabinet members, a federal judge Thursday ruled that Florida's process for restoring the voting rights of ex-felons is unconstitutional. "Florida strips the right to vote from every man and woman who commits a felony," U.S. District Judge Mark Walker wrote in a 43-page ruling. "To vote again, disenfranchised citizens must kowtow before a panel of high-level government officials over which Florida's governor has absolute veto authority. No standards guide the panel. Its members alone must be satisfied that these citizens deserve restoration. Until that moment (if it ever comes), these citizens cannot legally vote for presidents, governors, senators, representatives, mayors, or school-board members."

Walker's ruling, in a case filed last year by the voting-rights group Fair Elections Legal Network, was a bombshell in an issue that has long been controversial in Florida. It also comes just months before voters will cast ballots on a proposed constitutional amendment that would automatically restore the voting rights of most felons who have served their sentences, completed parole or probation and paid restitution.



The judge did not decide how the rights-restoration process should change and gave the plaintiffs and the state until Feb. 12 to file briefs on the issue.

For more information on any of the legislative information in this newsletter please contact our State V.P. and State Legislative Rep - Darrin "Scribe" Brooks at: flabatestatevp@gmail.com



MARCH 2018

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Mickey's Tiki Bar BIKE & CRUISE NIGHT	2	3
4 HERMANDAD MC ANNUAL	5 States MC Pompano Dinner	6	7	8 Mickey's Tiki Bar BIKE & CRUISE NIGHT	9 78 TH DAYTONA BIKE WEEK March 9-18	10
11	12 States MC Pompano Dinner	13	14	15 Mickey's Tiki Bar BIKE & CRUISE NIGHT	16	17  St. Patrick's Day
18 KELTICS MC ANNUAL	19 States MC Pompano Dinner	20	21	22 Mickey's Tiki Bar BIKE & CRUISE NIGHT	23	24
CHAPTER MEETING						
25 US MILITARY VETS MC (Ch 1) PARTY	26 States MC Pompano Dinner	27	28	29 Mickey's Tiki Bar BIKE & CRUISE NIGHT	30  Passover Begins	31



APRIL 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CMA EASTER SERVICE 	2 States MC Pompano Dinner	3	4	5 Mickey's Tiki Bar BIKE & CRUISE NIGHT	6	7 MYSTIC SEVEN MC PARTY Passover Ends
8	9 States MC Pompano Dinner	10	11	12 Mickey's Tiki Bar BIKE & CRUISE NIGHT	13	14 ABATE State Meeting (Peace River)
15 STATES MC ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING	16 States MC Pompano Dinner	17	18	19 Mickey's Tiki Bar BIKE & CRUISE NIGHT	20	21
22 ALTERNATIVE MC ANNUAL	23 States MC Pompano Dinner	24	25	26 Mickey's Tiki Bar BIKE & CRUISE NIGHT	27 LEESBURG BIKEFEST April 27-29	28
29	30 States MC Pompano Dinner					

2018 CALENDAR

MANDATORY CLUB EVENTS ARE LISTED IN BOLD



FOR CHANGES EMAIL:
INDIAN (WOM MC)
Indianwommc@yahoo.com
SFPC CHARIMAN

FEBRUARY

3: US MILITARY VETS MC HOMESTEAD-ANNUAL

11: AOA FT. LAUD. - ANNUAL

14: Valentines Day

17: SCURVY FEW MC - PARTY

24: WHEELS OF MAN MC - 45th ANNUAL

MARCH

4: HERMANDAD MC - ANNUAL

9-18: 77th DAYTONA BIKE WEEK

17: St. Patrick's Day

18: KELTICS MC - ANNUAL

25: US MILITARY VETS MC CH.1 - PARTY

APRIL

1: Easter

1: CMA - EASTER SERVICE

7: MYSTIC SEVEN MC - PARTY

15: STATES MC - ANNUAL

22: ALTERNATIVE MC - ANNUAL

27-29: LEESBURG BIKEFEST

MAY

6: SOUTHERN MC - ANNUAL

12: SCURVY FEW MC - ANNUAL

13: Mothers Day

20: WINGS OF GOLD MC MIAMI - ANNUAL

26: S.E. ABATE - MEMORIAL DAY EVENT

28: Memorial Day

JUNE

3: NEW ATTITUDES MC - ANNUAL

9: AOA SOUTH FLORIDA MEMORIAL GBNF 1%ers

10: WINGS OF GOLD MC FT. LAUD. - ANNUAL

17: Fathers Day

24: LEATHERNECKS MC - PARTY

JULY

4: Independence Day

8: US MILITARY VETS MC S. BROWARD - ANNUAL

15: SOLDIERS FOR JESUS MC BROWARD - ANNUAL

22: KINGDOM OF BROTHERS MC - ANNUAL

28: WHEELS OF MAN MC - CHILI COOK-OFF

AUGUST

5: WINGS OF GOLD MC MIAMI - PARTY

3-12: 78th STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY

10-12: SOUTH FLORIDA TATTOO CONVENTION

12: AOA FT. LAUD.-51st ANNIV. PARTY-MOLDY'S B-DAY

19: **SCURVY FEW MC - ANNUAL**

SEPTEMBER

2: SOUTHERN MC - TEDDY BEAR RUN(??)

3: Labor Day

9: STATES MC - KEY WEST TUNE UP PARTY

14-16: PETERSONS KEY WEST POKER RUN(??)

23: KELTICS MC - PARTY

OCTOBER

7: **MYSTIC SEVEN - ANNUAL**

14: **S.E. ABATE - ANNUAL**

18-21: DAYTONA BIKETOBERFEST

20: WHEELS OF MAN MC - HALLOWEEN PARTY

27: ALTERNATIVE MC - PARTY

28: CMA - MEMORIAL

NOVEMBER

3: **HEATHENS MC - ANNUAL**

11: Veterans Day

11: **USMVMC CH 1 - ANNUAL**

17: **LEATHERNECKS MC - ANNUAL**

22: Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER

9: **SFPC TOYS IN THE SUN RUN**

15: ALIGATOR ALLEY TOY RUN BIKE DRAWING

15: HERMANDAD MC-ALFREDO MEMORIAL & TOY RUN

15: USMVMC - REATHS ACROSS AMERICA

16: WINGS OF GOLD MC MIAMI - TOY RUN

25: Christmas Day





MONTHLY EVENTS



FRIDAY

Outlaws MC WPB Open House at 7pm
 USMV MC Ch 2 Open house at 8pm (Dania Bch)
 Der Krieger MC Open House at 8pm
 Mystic 7 MC Open House...Ladies drink FREE!
 Keltics MC Open House 8pm
 Scurvy Few MC Open House at 7:30pm
 1st Fri - Soldiers for Jesus Open House 7-10pm
 1st & 3rd Fri - Kingdom of Brothers Open House
 3rd Fri - Wings of Gold MC Open House Davie
 4th Fri - American Legion Post 36 Bike Night

SATURDAY

1st & 3rd Sat - AOA MC Dania Open House, 8pm
 2nd Sat - USMV MC Ft. Laud. Open House
 2nd & 4th Sat - Mystic 7 Open House
 2nd & 4th Sat - Kingdom of Brothers Open House

SUNDAY

Free pool at Sharkey's Lounge Margate
 Wind Rider Church Services at Mickey's

WEEK DAYS

Mon - States MC Pompano Dinner Nite 6:30pm
 Mon - Ladies nite at Sharkey's 9-2, 241 drinks
 Tues - Lone Legion Brotherhood Open House
 Last Tues - USMVMC Palm Bch Open House
 Wed - Blues Nite at Mickey's
 Thurs - Leathernecks MC Open House 8-mid
 Thurs - Hermandad MC Open House, 8-2am
 Thurs - Mickey's Bike & Cruise Night, 7:30pm
 Thurs - Scurvy Few MC Open House/Texas Holdem
 3rd Thurs - Peterson's Harley South Bike nite 6-10pm



ST PATRICK'S TRIVIA

1. What does the word "shamrock" mean in Gaelic?
2. Why is St. Patrick's Day celebrated on March 17th?
3. What famous novel turned into a Hollywood film about a bloodsucker was written in a Dublin pub?
4. What does Erin go Bragh mean?
5. How many U. S. presidents claim Irish heritage?
6. What does the circle in the celtic cross represent?
 - a) Sun
 - b) Moon
 - c) Eternity
 - d) Unity
7. Where did the term "Paddy Wagon" come from?
8. Where was the very first St Patrick's Day parade held?
 - a) New York 1721
 - b) Sydney 1798
 - c) Montreal 1735
 - d) Boston 1737

**Answers hidden
 somewhere in this issue**



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 W A E O I X I N S J B O E F W F J P E C R T D S P Y D M A H
 E B U U Q O J R M Z C E P I P P F G C E H M T V D M U H R E
 X B J R C E Z J T L Z F Z B C Q R O C H N W T N K U J L B U
 P A J L Q F Q O O A L G X B D C T R E S V B A N V I L L O V
 C C Z E O U W V G U P H A C E O D Y C Z K L E N P Y F H G I
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 R Y G F Z R M K P B K E N O T S Y E N R A L B C R R U A I V
 U C G E K C O R M A H S T I J K L Q I F A O V B I M K R R R
 S M X D W F W H I H O H Q E A L Y Q M Z J P B V B L S C E C
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 I G Q U R K V K J Y R U S R G Z O Z A A A H E J Q X P Z P V

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Blarney Stone
Brogue
Cabbage
Celtic
Charm
Clover



Coins
Dublin
Erin Go Bragh
Four-Leafed-Clover
Gaelic
Green Beer
Ireland



Irish
Jig
Leprechaun
Limerick
Luck
March
Pipe



Pot o' Gold
Rainbow
Saint Patrick
Shamrock
Shillelagh
Snakes
Top o' the mornin'

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Angelo Dina
 Anthony "Tony" Becham
 Bill "Big Bill" Pessiman
 "Catch-Up"
 Charles Corso
 Chris Sharp
 Dave Carter
 Eddie Diaz
 Charlie "Gnarly Charlie"



George Torrence
 Leo "The Lion" Brault
 Maureen "MGM" Hernandez
 Michael Romanowicz
 Rick "Big Papa" Morales
 Thomas "Pizza-Chit" Albarino
 Wayne "Loffi n' Wayne" Bragg
 Pat Scrogam
 Osvaldo Mayor Sr

**Don't miss the ABATE SE Chapter Birthday Party
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Election 2018 Update

FROM OUR STATE V.P. & LEGISLATIVE REP
DARRIN "SCRIBE" BROOKS

VACANT SEATS TO DOT LEGISLATURE DURING SESSION

By JIM TURNER - THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

More than 1.1 million Florida voters won't have a representative in one of the legislative chambers when the 2018 session begins next month. Resignations and a recent death have created six open seats, with most expected to remain vacant through the 60-day session because of scheduling requirements for special elections.

The vacancies do little to alter the Republican hold on both chambers, with the GOP up 23-15 in the Senate and 76-40 in the House entering the 2018 session. But a vacancy can mean additional work for other lawmakers.

More importantly, Aubrey Jewett, a political-science professor at the University of Central Florida, said people in districts short of full representation could struggle to see local needs and funding advanced. "Some districts have certain issues that are important which may not be pursued at all or pursued with the same vigor," Jewett said. "Every district may have specific issues or projects that they would like funded. In the absence of representation, it is likely they will not get their share of the appropriations pie."

"The system is set up so that most members primarily listen to and try to help their own constituents --- under normal circumstances it is considered bad form to work with a constituent who does not live in your district," Jewett added. "Some years ago, when I was in college, I interned with my state representative. One of the first things that I was taught when being contacted by someone was to get their address and find out if they lived in the district or not. If they did not, I was directed to steer them towards their appropriate elected official."

However, he noted that district staff members usually remain in place until new lawmakers are seated, which helps with some constituent services. Jewett also said a lawmaker leaving unexpectedly could affect bills that the lawmaker sponsored or planned to champion. "If no other member has the passion for one of these issues, then it is likely that the policies will not have an advocate and will have a harder time becoming law or being funded," Jewett said.

As an example, former Rep. Alex Miller, a Sarasota Republican, resigned in August, pointing to family and work obligations as well as House leadership issues. She had earlier announced plans to pursue new state wildlife laws after videos surfaced of people abusing sharks. Since Miller's departure, no one has picked up issue. As another example, Rep. Don Hahnfeldt, a Republican from The Villages who died of cancer Sunday, backed five local projects, including proposals that would provide money to Lake-Sumter State College and make improvements to County Road 466A, which runs through The Villages.

Having co-sponsors could help keep proposals moving after the departure of lawmakers. Hahnfeldt, for instance, was sponsoring a bill (HB 1029) that calls for raising the legal age for smoking from 18 to 21. Rep. Lori Berman, a Lantana Democrat who is co-sponsoring the bill, intends to move forward with the proposal. "I was honored to have worked with him on raising the tobacco purchase age to 21 and will pursue this important issue in his legacy," Berman tweeted on Tuesday. Sen. David Simmons, R-Altamonte Springs, also is sponsoring a Senate version of the bill.

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VACANT SEATS TO DOT LEGISLATURE DURING SESSION *Continued from page 35*

Susan MacManus, a political-science professor at the University of South Florida, said the vacancies highlight the importance of coalition building. “It is never optimal in a representative democracy for vacancies during a legislative session,” MacManus said in an email. “But constituents missing a representative or senator have little choice other than to turn to others who share(d) his, her interests whether via a political party or committee assignment or interest group.”

With legislative seats vacant for months after the exits of lawmakers, MacManus said it is important for voters to understand the necessity of special-election timelines. That includes providing time for overseas voters to receive and cast ballots. “Too many voters see this as an intentional delay rather than as mandated protection of overseas voters’ right to vote,” MacManus said.

Leon County Circuit Judge Charles Dodson this month rejected arguments by Florida Democratic Party leaders that special elections in two legislative districts should be held more quickly so the seats could be filled for at least part of the legislative session. Dodson described as “unfortunate” the timing of the resignations of former Sen. Jeff Clemens in Palm Beach County’s Senate District 31 and former Rep. Daisy Baez in Miami-Dade County’s House District 114. But he said moving up special election dates set by Gov. Rick Scott could lead to an argument that shorter windows for absentee voting would prevent people from casting ballots. “I wish I could do something,” Dodson said as he ruled against the party’s request. “But there really isn’t time to do it.”

State law requires 45 days for absentee voting before special and general elections. The party argued the requirement shouldn’t apply to special elections. Here are details of the seats that will be vacant for all or part of the session, which starts Jan. 9 and is scheduled to end March 9:

HOUSE DISTRICT 33

- Vacant because of the death of Republican Don Hahnfeldt of The Villages.
- Includes Sumter County and parts of Lake and Marion counties.
- Election dates have not been set.
- Registered voters as of October 2016: 140,817.

HOUSE DISTRICT 39

- Vacant because of the resignation of Auburndale Republican Neil Combee.
- Includes parts of Osceola and Polk counties.
- Special primary election: Feb. 20.
- Special general election: May 1.
- Registered voters as of October 2016: 112,258.

HOUSE DISTRICT 72

- Vacant because of the resignation of Sarasota Republican Alex Miller.
- Includes part of Sarasota County.
- Special primary election: Was held Dec. 5.
- Special general election: Feb. 13.
- Registered voters: 124,346.

HOUSE DISTRICT 114

- Vacant because of the resignation of Coral Gables Democrat Daisy Baez.
- Includes part of Miami-Dade County.
- Special primary election: Feb. 20
- Special general election: May 1
- Registered voters as of October 2016: 96,381.

SENATE DISTRICT 16

- Vacant because of the resignation of Clearwater Republican Jack Latvala, which will take effect Jan. 5.
- Includes parts of Pasco and Pinellas counties.
- Election dates have not been set.
- Registered voters as of October 2016: 336,940.

SENATE DISTRICT 31

- Vacant because of the resignation of Lake Worth Democrat Jeff Clemens.
- Includes part of Palm Beach County.
- Special primary election Jan. 30.
- Special general election: April 10.
- Registered voters as of October 2016: 305,998

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NCOM BIKER NEWSBYTES

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish,
National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM)

MANDATORY S.O.S. EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM FOR MOTORCYCLES

An emergency call system for cars has been available for a while, such as the GM OnStar safety device system that summons a quick response in case of an accident. An equivalent system called "eCall" will soon be mandatory in Europe on all new cars sold after April 16, 2018.

Reasoning that motorcyclists are more vulnerable in a crash than car drivers, the European Union now wants manufacturers to equip all motorcycles with an S.O.S alert system. Since 2017, some BMW motorcycles already offer the "Intelligent Emergency Call" sent automatically or manually by the rider to emergency responders.

Studies show that emergency crews would be able to get to the accident scene 40 to 50% faster, saving around 2,500 lives every year in Europe alone. Will the U.S. follow suit?

TWO WHEELS TV NETWORK SET TO LAUNCH

For motorcycle enthusiasts who can never get enough two-wheel action on television, TwoWheelsTV.com "all motorcycle network" is set to launch this Spring. Whether you're seeking live racing action, or commentary from leaders within the industry, the new "over-the-top" (OTT) streaming network is dedicated entirely to motorcycles.

"Like Netflix for motorcycling," according to founder Alan Smith, Two Wheels TV (TWTV) will be available on an annual and monthly basis, and promises to deliver live motorcycle racing that's streamed from all over the world, plus an on-demand library of movies, shows, race archives and other exclusive motorcycling programs. The soft launch is for iOS and Android devices; register at TwoWheelsTV.com. The full launch is expected in April,

and TWTV will be supported by Google Chromecast, Apple TV, Amazon Fire and Roku.

The launch of Two Wheels TV coincides with a spike in the conversation about U.S. motorcycling, as efforts to reinvigorate the industry have come from the grassroots level ("Give a Shift" and "Plus 1"), as well as a new initiative from the Motorcycle Industry Council ("Ride").

FLORIDA RIDERS FIGHT FOR STRICTER LAWS ON CRASHES INVOLVING CARS

More than a hundred motorcyclists made their way to the Capitol in Tallahassee on Monday, February 12, as riders with ABATE of Florida, Inc. spoke to legislators about some of the safety issues they face every single day.

The state president of ABATE, James "Doc" Reichenbach, told WCTV Eyewitness News that their main focus is trying to cut down on deaths due to drivers who are distracted. He wants to see a bill passed that protects the motorcyclists on the road.

Reichenbach said the most common type of crash involving a car and motorcycle is from left hand turns. Reichenbach said he's had five times more motorcyclists die recently from accidents involving distracted or careless drivers. He believes this type of accident should be considered manslaughter.

"We're getting killed. We're getting run over by cars and trucks and everything else and trying to stop that. We're fathers, we're mothers, and we have children. We're just like anybody else, we just happen to ride motorcycles, and we shouldn't be an endangered species," said Reichenbach, who also serves as Chairman of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM).

SOUTH DAKOTA "GANG BILL" OPPOSED BY MOTORCYCLE GROUPS

Legislation addressing "gangs" in South Dakota is raising concerns among those in the motorcycle community, as House Bill 111 seeks to revise certain definitions regarding criminal street gang activity that some rider groups feel could target them.

"It jumped out at me that it's basically a profiling bill," said Bryon Farmer, Chairman of the South Dakota Confederation of Clubs, who told KDLT News "There are some good issues to trying to keep street gangs out of our communities and out of our state, that part I'm

okay with. It's just the broad range of the way the bill is written, it could be used against way too many good groups that are out there."

Motorcycle groups like ABATE of South Dakota are testifying in opposition of the bill they say targets them as gang members. "It's not just motorcyclists; it's so broad that just about anybody that's wearing similar shirts could be defined as a street gang," said Dave Brende, President of "Those Guys" ABATE Chapter. "We don't want to be lumped in as a street gang member, we do a lot of good for this community and so do all the other clubs and organizations."

NEW MEXICO MRO HONORED BY MSF & DOT The New Mexico Motorcycle Rights Organization (NMMRO) was presented an award from MSF and DOT for all the work they do to promote Safety Awareness in the state and for providing support to motorcycle crash victims through their "Biker Down" program.

The award was presented during the annual Motorcycle Advisory Safety Program Committee Meeting, attended by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), New Mexico Department of Transportation (DOT), MSF Rider Coaches, local dealerships and the University of New Mexico Traffic Research Unit that keeps track of crash statistics for the state.

Among the top topics discussed was promoting basic rider and advanced rider training to enhance rider skills to all ages. "We have always concentrated on the campaigns such as Watch Out For Motorcycles which we will continue; but it is just as important that we also promote rider responsibility," said Annette Torrez, NMMRO Chairperson. Torrez, who also serves on the board of directors for the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) added that "With enhanced riding skills there are many factors that we as riders can be more aware of to avoid or prevent a crash."

The Motorcycle Safety Achievement Award states in part; "The NMMRO ceaseless efforts have made significant and enduring contributions to the safety of motorcyclists in the State of New Mexico. The professionalism, initiative and action demonstrated by NMMRO has contributed to saving lives."

NCOM CHRISTIAN UNITY REPORT In a recent Christian Unity Report submitted by Louie Nobs, Christian Unity Liaison to the NCOM Board, it was

reported that "Over the past year, Christian Unity groups in the Midwest, Oklahoma and Texas have been growing and having regular meetings. As the result of information that was given in our Region II CU meeting in Oklahoma last November, some members have pursued certifications through FEMA for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). This will help them get into areas in emergency situations to serve and assess with first responders.

"I was able to share some of my experiences as a CERT member during Hurricane Harvey in the Houston area. Some of the tasks I was able to do was rescue people from flood waters by air boat, serve in shelters, and get supplies to area shelters. I would like to thank those of on the NCOM board of directors and bikers across the country who responded to our call for assistance. Supplies were shipped to Central Harley-Davidson in Austin and then trucked into affected areas. Most stores were unable to keep simple things like respirator masks, tarps and box cutters on the shelves in the affected areas.

"A recent turn of events regarding the Waco case has brought relief to 20 affected families in that they have had their charges dismissed. Some of those folks have kept in contact with us and have also been recipients of assistance from Shield of Faith. We continue to keep praying for justice for all the bikers who were involved in this debacle. The article can be accessed at: www.kwtx.com/content/news/DA-to-see-to-dismiss-charges-against-more-than-20-Twin-Peaks-bikers-473216573.html.

"We are looking forward to a good turnout for the NCOM Convention in May in Mobile, Alabama. We are currently seeking out Christian Unity members and motorcycle ministries to assist with the hospitality suite. If you are interested contact us at ncom.christianunity@gmail.com or call Louie at 936-443-4500."

INJURED MOTORCYCLIST SUES AUTONOMOUS CAR FOR 'NEGLIGENT DRIVING' In the first of its kind lawsuit against an autonomous vehicle, a California motorcyclist has filed suit against General Motors, accusing one of the car maker's robotic cars of "negligent driving."

The rider was splitting lanes on a highway in San Francisco when a Cruise AV aborted a lane change maneuver in heavy traffic and swerved back into

its original lane which was now occupied by the motorcyclist, knocking him to the ground in a crash that left him injured and unable to work, according to the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco.

The police report on the incident blamed the motorcyclist, saying he shouldn't have been passing on the right, though "lane-splitting" is allowed in California. But the report also noted that the car's human overseer, who was operating the self-driving prototype in autonomous mode, tried to grab the wheel and avoid the collision, but was too late to prevent contact.

An attorney for the motorcycle rider claims the accident report actually supports his client's claim in stating that the AV driver saw his client before the crash but didn't have enough time to grab the wheel and swerve.

This news comes on the heels of GM announcing plans to release a Level 5 autonomous vehicle -- without a steering wheel or pedals -- in 2019.

The court case could prove a landmark given the involvement of an autonomous car.

TEN STATES OBJECT TO EPA REDUCING HARLEY-DAVIDSON EMISSIONS PENALTY According to a recent report from Reuters news agency, ten U.S. states and the District of Columbia have announced they are challenging a decision by the Trump administration to drop a requirement that Harley-Davidson Inc spend \$3 million to reduce air pollution under settlement the Obama administration announced.

In 2016, the Milwaukee-based motorcycle manufacturer agreed to pay a \$12 million civil fine and stop selling illegal after-market devices that caused its vehicles to emit too much pollution, in violation of the Clean Air Act, and was ordered by the EPA to spend nearly \$3 million to instead retrofit or replace wood-burning appliances with cleaner stoves to mitigate air pollution.

The Justice Department in July cited a new policy by U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and an ongoing review of the penalty by a government auditor in proposing to drop the \$3 million penalty from the settlement. A U.S. District Judge must still decide whether to approve the revised agreement.

The Harley-Davidson settlement resolved allegations that Harley sold about 340,000 "super tuners" enabling

motorcycles since 2008 to pollute the air at levels greater than what the company certified. Harley-Davidson did not admit liability, and said previously it disagreed with the government, arguing that the tuners were designed and sold to be used in "competition only."

The Harley-Davidson settlement came amid greater scrutiny on emissions and "defeat devices" by U.S. regulators after Volkswagen AG admitted to using illegal software to evade U.S. emissions standards in nearly 600,000 U.S. vehicles in September 2015.

INDIA PULLS BACK ON PLAN TO ENFORCE APPROVED HELMETS Police in India have withdrawn a rule requiring motorcycle riders and passengers to wear ISI-approved helmets, after a week of seizing non-approved helmets and fining riders.

Motor Vehicle Rules in Karnataka, a state in southwest India, require that helmets have the ISI mark (that certifies acceptable levels of quality and crash performance). Traffic police officials had set the deadline of February 1st for all riders and pillion (passengers) to switch to ISI branded helmets. Now though, this deadline has been withdrawn.

In announcing this sudden change, the Commissioner of Police said in a statement; "Traffic policemen on duty cannot decide the standard of helmets by a mere physical inspection and hence it is unfair to penalizing bikers for wearing sub-standard helmets... Each and every helmet we confiscate would have to be sent to the BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) office and we could not impose a fine until we got the results."

Many bikers who wear helmets branded with ECE and DOT marks, said to be better than ISI in terms of quality and crash performance, complained that the ISI-helmet rule was unfair. Now that the BIS has clarified that a helmet's quality cannot be assessed by just looking at it, the traffic police department of Karnataka will no longer check for the ISI-mark on helmets worn by riders and pillion of two wheelers in India.

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people." ~ John F. Kennedy (1917-1963), 35th US President

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ANSWERS TRIVIA ON PAGE 27

1. Young clover
2. St. Patrick died on March 17, 461 AD.
3. Bram Stoker was working in Dublin as a civil Servant when he wrote Dracula
4. Ireland forever
5. 19 - Including our first President, George Washington.
6. A
7. When drunk Irish were arrested, they'd all say their names were Paddy
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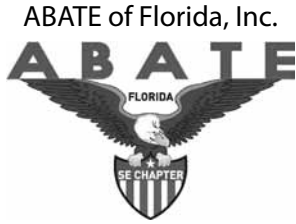
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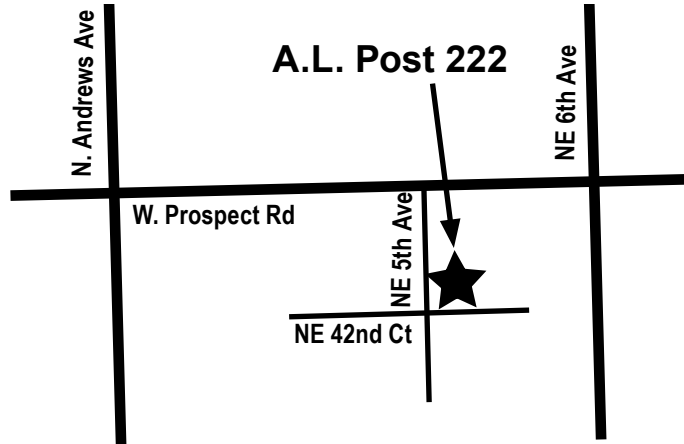
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