

A Week in D.C.: Advocacy, Access, and the American Experiment

It has been a busy week in Washington, D.C., the kind of week that reminds me why I do this work and why, eight years in, the spark hasn't dulled.

I kicked things off with a short but substantive meeting with a federal agency to discuss an increasingly relevant topic: public access to federal land for recreational purposes. The discussion was constructive, even encouraging. Still, anyone who has spent time dealing with federal agencies knows that progress is rarely linear. The wheels turn slowly, even when there is agreement in principle. But every inch forward counts when the goal is expanding the rights and freedoms of everyday Americans to access land that, after all, belongs to the people.

Tuesday and Wednesday were full throttle, two long days spent walking the halls of Congress, meeting with and dropping into 34 different congressional offices. If you've never walked the length of the House and Senate office buildings, just know this: if you wear a fitness tracker, you'll hit your step goal before noon. Each meeting is its own strategic conversation, focused on issues that matter deeply to the constituents and clients I represent – motorcycle rights, veterans' rights, Second Amendment protections, and the broader theme of individual liberty.

What struck me most, as it often does, was the caliber of some of the legislative staffers. Many of them are just a few years out of college, yet they are navigating complex policy portfolios with impressive clarity and command. These are not paper-pushers. They're researchers, strategists, and policy architects who are influencing legislation in ways most people never see. It's easy to underestimate how much of the heavy lifting in Washington is done by people whose names you won't find on a ballot—but whose fingerprints are on every major bill moving through Congress.

This trip marks the eighth year I've had the opportunity to lobby on Capitol Hill. That experience hasn't dulled my sense of awe at what our Founding Fathers constructed, a democratic republic designed for citizen participation. It's not perfect. It's messy, slow, and often frustrating. But it's ours, and it still works when people show up.

I closed out the trip with dinner with a longtime friend and colleague who works on national veterans' policy. These conversations are often just as valuable as any meeting on the Hill - an exchange of ideas over a meal, reflecting on how we can keep improving systems and policies that impact those who've served our country.

Now I'm headed back to Arizona. The real work begins again: follow-up emails, thank-yous, policy briefs, and planning for the next round of advocacy. But I leave D.C. reminded of why this matters. I leave with tired feet, a full notebook, and a stronger belief in the cause of freedom and individual rights.

This job isn't glamorous. It's strategic, relentless, and sometimes a grind. But it's meaningful - and I truly love it.

If you've ever thought about how policy gets made or want to be a part of protecting your rights and freedoms—there's a place for you in this work.

Let's keep showing up.

Want to stay in the loop on key policy developments from D.C. to Arizona? Follow along as we continue pushing for policies that reflect freedom, common sense, and the constitutional principles this country was built on.

> Michael Infanzon ABATE-AZ Legislative Director Mike@ABATEofAZ.org Government Affairs Consultant | Policy Advocate | Lover of Liberty

MasterLink Board of Directors & State Officers

Board of Directors for 2025

Coyote Pass BoD Rep Eric Spurr
East Valley BoD Rep Jeff Gorall
Mohave BoD Rep Donna Arnold-Post
High Country BoD Rep Open
Phoenix BoD Rep Scot Williamson
Southern AZ BoD Rep Lou Vanden Plas
Yavapai BoD Rep Dennis Banners
Yuma BoD Rep Open

Board of Director meetings are held via Zoom on the 1st Saturday of Jan, Apr, Jul, & Oct. Time to be announced. Members are Welcome.

ABATE of Arizona State Office is located at: AZ American-Italian Club 7509 N. 12th Street, Suite #200 Phoenix, AZ 85020



Board Appointed Officers

Legislative Director	Michael Infanzon
Designated Lobbyist.	EPIC Policy Group
M.A.P	Jim Silk
Treasurer	Cliff Prentice
Membership System	Admin
	Forrost Phillips

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Contact the MasterLink Editor

By-Laws Committee Michael Infanzon Betsy Newkirk

State Officers For 2025

President	Jim Butsback
Vice President	Paula Beall
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Cliff Prentice
Sergeant-at-Arms	Gary Crawford
Membership	Open
Run/Events	Open
Safety Coordinator M	atthew Reemelin
PAC A	nissa Huntington
Communications	Joe Silk
Merchandise	Open
TBFS Chair	Jim Butsback

State Officer meetings are now the 1st Sunday of every month @ 6pm via Zoom. Members are Welcome.

Contact:

Jim Butsback, jimbutsback@yahoo.com Cell phone, call or text 520-247-3051 I DO NOT USE MESSENGER

Every level of member is important to the survival of our organization.

Supporter:	Advocate:	Activist:	Radical:
Joins a SMRO. Believes that it's important to be a part of it. Goes to a meeting occasionally.	Goes to every meeting but just doesn't want to take that next step and be an officer. Volunteers only after being asked.	Goes to every meeting. Holds office. Volunteers for every event. Recruits new members. Goes to MRO events on their own dime.	Goes to every meeting and event. Does everything to support the SMRO. Holds chapter and state offices. Joins other chapters. Volunteers for anything needed that promotes the SMRO. Actively recruits their friends, family members, and co-workers.

Which one are you?

You get more back when you put more in. Camaraderie, riding buddies, a sense of purpose, feeling of accomplishment

READY to CHANGE LEVELS?

Your Chapter & State Officers welcome your interest & enthusiasm Talk to them about how YOU can help grow & strengthen ABATE of Arizona

MasterLink President's Report

Greetings everyone,

As I sit down to write this, I am happy to be able to report that Too Broke for Sturgis is on and the plans are coming along well. This year we will be at a new location. The event will be held at the Grand Canyon Caverns & Inn in Peach Springs, Arizona. There is a large RV park and campground on their property, and we have reserved the entire campground. There are approximately 50+ RV spots with water and electricity. There is also a large area for camping tents. They are excited to host us and have had motorcycle events there in the past.

I expect that the change in location will influence our turn out. Peach Springs is located on old Route 66 about 20 miles west of Seligman or 65 miles east of Kingman. It is about 200 miles from Phoenix. There is a lot of history and many attractions along Route 66. There is a lot of good riding in this area. There is a motel on the property for those who do not camp, which has a convenience store for those who need it. There is a restaurant located near the entrance to the RV park which will be open.

The Caverns will be re-opening for tours as of June 7, including the Guided Tours and the Ghost Tour. Reservation info is on their website https://gccaverns.com/ and is a separate fee from your TBFS entry.

We have held the pricing to the same as last year. There will be Live music on Friday and Saturday evenings from 7-11. Friday, we have The Great Unknown which is a classic rock band and on Saturday we are lucky to once again have Last Train to Juarez! We had

such great feedback about their performance last year that we contacted them and they could fit us into their schedule. They have recently signed with a major record company and are touring. They are big supporters of motorcycle rights and many of them also are riders.

I was also privileged to attend Riding for the Long Haul which is the annual fundraiser for the Arizona Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Foundation (AMSAF). The folks at AMSAF presented Mike Infanzon with their 2025 Visionary Award that night. Congratulations to Mike for



Jim Butsback Email: jimbutsback@yahoo.com Cell Phone, call or text 520-247-3051 I DO NOT USE MESSENGER! a well-deserved honor. Senator Bolick and Representative Quang Nguyen and their spouses were also in attendance. Both were influential in helping to get SB1107 passed. Thanks to both for all they do for the motorcycle community.

The Board of Directors has voted to allow the State Officers to proceed in a restructuring of the organization to help encourage growth and redefine

ABATE's vision and mission. More information on this program will be forthcoming.

Our Legislative Director Mike Infanzon attended the Motorcycle Riders Foundation's lobbying event, Bikers Inside the Beltway in Washington DC. From the reports that I have received, this year's event was one of the very best since its inception. Thanks again Mike for all you do for our community.

> Until Next Month! Ride Free!

SECURE YOUR LOAD LAW WENT INTO EFFECT September 19, 2024!!!

On ALL Arizona roads not just highways. Thanks to Senator Shawnna Bolick for sponsoring this important legislation and championing safety on the roads!

Ch. 183, Laws 2024 (SB1376 - Vehicle loads; restrictions) Extends vehicle load restrictions from highways to streets and roadways, applied uniformly throughout Arizona and in all its political subdivisions. Exempts vehicles being used for agricultural purposes on a farm.

> If you have questions about the new law, please contact ABATE's Legislative Director, Michael Infanzon at mike@abateofaz.org



Coyote Pass Chapter

Coordinator	Eric Spurr
V. Coord	Mike Degrood
Secretary	Jeri Wise
Treasurer	Denise Green
Sgt at Arms	Tom Love
Membership	Open
Runs/Events	Mike Degrood
Safety Coordinator	Roger Green
PAC	Open
Communications	Rick Wise
Merchandise	Open
BOD Rep	Eric Spurr

Contact: Mike 661-332-2308, way2coolwheels@yahoo.com

https://www.facebook.com/ groups/4808599665893759

The Coyote Pass Chapter meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Calico's Restaurant, 928-753-5005 418 W. Beale St. ; Kingman, AZ 86401 # # #

East Valley Chapter

Coordinator	loe Silk
V. Coord	Jeff Gorall
Secretary	Brett Doyen
Treasurer	Laura Hershey
Sgt at Arms	Jeff Gorall
Membership	
Runs/Events	Ky Sisson
Safety Coordinator	Matthew Reemelin
PAC	Gary Crawford
Communications	Joe Silk
Merchandise	Gary Crawford
BOD Rep	
•	

Contact: Joe Silk, 480-628-8598 miterangers@msn.com

The East Valley Chapter meets at 10AM on the 3rd Sunday of every month at the American Legion Post 138 1264 W University Dr, Mesa NW Corner of Alma School & University ###



High Country Chapter

Coordinator	Open
V. Coord	Open
Secretary	Thomas Stocks
Treasurer	Open
Sgt at Arms	Roy Whiting
Membership	Open
Runs/Events	Jacque 'Daisi' Whiting
Safety Coordinator	Roy 'Fatboy' Whiting
PAC	Open
Communications	Marty Bernal
Merchandise	Gail Howard
Media	Marty Bernal
BOD Rep	Open

Contact:

https://www.facebook.com/ AbateHighCountryChapter

HCC meets 3rd Saturdays @ 10:30a, b'fast 9am @ Stanford Store, 928-537-7755 4 Apache County Rd 8235 (Stanford Rd), Vernon, AZ # # #



10409 N Scottsdale Rd Scottsdale, AZ 85253 480-368-8095 dirtydoggsaloon@yahoo.com

Mohave Chapter

Coordinator	Tom Aydt
V. Coord	Open
Secretary	Cynde Aydt
Treasurer	. Donna Arnold-Post
Sgt at Arms	Emmette Tucker
Membership	Cynde Aydt
Runs/Events	Open
Safety Coordinator	Terry Campbell
PAC	Denny Lange
Communications	Tom Aydt
Merchandise	Open
Media	Open
BOD Rep	. Donna Arnold-Post

Contact: Tom Aydt, 715-651-0770 tamedic1969@yahoo.com

https://www.facebook.com/ groups/263121160987524/

Mohave County Chapter meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month 6:00 PM at: VFW Golden Valley Post 2555 6068 Supai Dr. ; Golden Valley, AZ 86413 # # #

Phoenix Chapter

Coordinator	. Scot 'One T' Williamson
V.Coord	Jay 'One Y' Williamson
Secretary	Debby Miller
Treasurer	Lyn Peterson
Sgt at Arms	Gavin Granmo
Membership	John Marshall
Runs/Events	Cliff Prentice
Safety Coordinator	Ernie Lizarraga
PAC	open
Communications	Kelly Marshall
Merchandise	Tiffany Granmo
BOD Rep	. Scot 'One T' Williamson

Contact: One T (text only) 480-768-8747 <u>Ldmaau56a@gmail.com</u> <u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> <u>groups/1640745202851394</u>

Phoenix/Shadow Mountain meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30pm at VFW Post-1433 7618 N 63rd Ave ; Glendale, AZ 85301 # # #



1-623-853-0750 🛦 info@arizonacyclepark.com

25848 S 279th Ave, Buckeye, AZ 85326



or Flash: 602-754-9137 <u>sbrriderflash@gmail.com</u> <u>https://azcmc.org/</u>

MasterLink Local ABATE Chapters

Southern Arizona Chapter

Coordinator	Jeremy Krauss
V. Coord	Open
Secretary	Monica Byrne
Treasurer	Monica Byrne
Sgt at Arms	Rob Rogers
Membership	Jim Butsback
Runs/Events	Open
Safety Coordinator	Open
PAC	Open
Communications	Judi Miller
Merchandise	Open
Media	Open
BOD Rep	Lou Vanden Plas

Contact: Jeremy Krauss, 520-305-0231 jeremykrauss@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/ groups/240701943485586

The Southern Arizona Chapter meets the third Saturday of the month at 10AM at the Northwest Tucson Moose Lodge 2660 W. Ruthrauff Rd., Tucson, AZ 85705 # # #

Yavapai Chapter

Coordinator	Timothy Thomas
V. Coord	Dan Tumey
Secretary	Dixie Gray
Treasurer	Open
Sgt at Arms	Lori Kludt
Membership	Holli Woosley
Runs/Events	Open
Safety Coordinator	Andrew 'AJ' Killian
РАС	Open
Communications	Open
Merchandise	Dennis Banners
Media	Open
BOD Rep	Dennis Banners

Contact: Timothy, 360-720-3465 <u>tntblaster@netzero.net</u> <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/</u> <u>ycabateaz</u>

Meet us at 6:30pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month VFW Bucky O'Neill Post 541 202 N Arizona Ave ; Prescott 86301 # # #

Yuma Chapter

Coordinator	Open
V. Coord	Frank White
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Douglas Kreag
Sgt at Arms	Open
Membership	Douglas Kreag
Runs/Events	Open
Safety Coordinator	Open
PAC	Open
Communications	Open
Merchandise	Open
Media	Open
BOD Rep	Frank White

Contact Frank 'Hound' White, 209-327-0814 for meetings details, etc # # #

Protecting Motorcyclists' Rights is a Team Effort! Support your sport by supporting ABATE of Arizona

Choose Wisely

Once you've decided to ride, there are a lot of choices to be made. What kind of bike? New or used? How much insurance? What kind of protective gear? It can get very expensive. So if you've chosen to wear a helmet, we'd like to make sure you buy a good one.

The Arizona Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Foundation (AMSAF) and Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) want to help. Our Financial Assistance Helmet program provides Individuals with \$125 from AMSAF and 25% off the Manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) when you purchase a DOT-approved, full face or modular helmet at AMSAF approved locations abroughout the state.



or more information or to apply go to AMSAF org/Helmet

The Arizona Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Foundation Financial Assistance Helmet Program

How it works

- AMSAF Vouchers are valid towards the purchase of a \$200.00 or higher DOT Certified Full Face or Modular Street Helmet.
- Vouchers are only valid to those dealers approved by AMSAF and listed on the AMSAF website.
- Vouchers are not valid for discounted, special order or discontinued heimets.
- Purchased heimet is non-returnable if warning tag is cut off. Heimets may be returnable at the discretion of the dealer.
- Voucher is valid for a \$125.00 credit toward qualified helmot due to grant received from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.
- Depier or store will give an additional 25% off of Helmet MSRP.
- \$50.00 tax doductible donation is required to AMSAF at time of application.
- Voucher and promo code is only valid toward one (1) Helmet purchase.
- Dealer will credit individual up front at time of purchase and invoice AMSAF.



For more information or to apply - Click in this presentation

For more information or to apply go to AMSAF.org/Helmeta

The Importance of Social Security Planning: Why It Pays to Prepare Early

from ABATE-AZ Business Member Ky Sisson, Licensed in Health, Life, Annuities & Long-Term Care

When it comes to retirement, few decisions are as impactful—and often misunderstood—as when and how to take Social Security benefits. For many Americans, Social Security is the foundation of their retirement income. Yet, far too many people make decisions without understanding the full scope of their options. That's why Social Security planning isn't just smart—it's essential.

Working in Medicare for the last several years, I've seen a recurring theme amongst my clients: issues and confusion surrounding their Social Security benefits. Too often, people come to me after they've already made decisions that can't be reversed—choices that reduced their monthly income or left money on the table.

To better serve my clients and provide the guidance they deserve, I became a **Certified Social Security Consultant**. That means I can help you better understand your options, **maximize your Social Security benefits**, and avoid costly mistakes.

Why Social Security Planning Matters

1. It Can Significantly Increase Lifetime Benefits

Claiming benefits at age 62—the earliest age you're eligible—means accepting a permanent reduction in your monthly checks. Waiting until full retirement age (typically 66–67) or even age 70 can increase your benefits by up to 30%. A strategic plan helps you find the sweet spot that maximizes your benefits over your lifetime.

2. It Affects More Than Just You

Your Social Security choices can impact your spouse, dependents, and survivors. For example, spouses may be eligible for benefits based on your work record, and widow(er)'s benefits can be affected by the timing of your claim. Planning ensures your loved ones are also protected.

3. Social Security Is a Lifelong Income Stream

Unlike savings accounts or 401(k)s, Social Security benefits last as long as you live. In an age when people are living longer, having a guaranteed income stream that adjusts for inflation is critical. Proper planning helps ensure your



benefits match your retirement needs.

4. Health and Longevity Should Influence Your Timing

A good Social Security plan takes into account your health history and family longevity. If you expect to live well into your 80s or 90s, delaying benefits could be the financially wiser move. On the other hand, if health is a concern, it might make sense to take benefits earlier.

5. It Works Best with Your Overall Retirement Plan

Social Security shouldn't be viewed in a vacuum. It's one part of your broader retirement income strategy. Coordinating your Social Security timing with other sources—like pensions, annuities, or withdrawals from retirement accounts—can reduce taxes and stretch your nest egg further.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

• Claiming too early without considering the long-term impact

- Not understanding spousal or survivor benefits
- Failing to factor in taxes on benefits

• Overlooking how working in retirement affects your checks

Start Planning Before You Turn 62

If you're approaching age 60, now is the time to take a closer look at your options. A good Social Security plan is personalized, strategic, and based on more than just your age—it considers your entire financial picture.

Bottom Line: Social Security is too important to leave to guesswork. A well-thought-out plan can mean the difference between just getting by in retirement—or enjoying the freedom you've earned.

Let's talk. As a Certified Social Security Consultant, I can help you explore your options, avoid missteps, and make confident decisions about your financial future.

Website: KysForYou.com Phone: 888-KYS-4-YOU

> Ky Sisson Licensed in Health, Life, Annuities & Long-Term Care (888) KYS-4-YOU | ky@kysforyou.com Don't Guess When It Comes To Your Future – KysForYou.com

MasterLink **Chapter Reports**

Coyote Pass Chapter

We had a booth at Thunder Rode Bike Fest in April; Friday 25th to Sunday 27th. It was terribly windy all 3 days, and in fact our tent was torn apart by the wind gusts of 40mph. Because of that I believe the attendance was lower. We were able to talk to a few people, give out brochures, and gave away some ABATE trinkets (kickstand pads, pens, etc.)

We had a couple of people who stopped by who may join ABATE-AZ. By Sunday, all we had left of our booth is the table that Roger brought. I will say we had people available to work the booth all weekend, which was good.

Our Chapter's post-BikeFest meeting took place the evening of Tuesday May 13. We talked about the need for a new tent plus more items to give out at our booth to draw people in. Unfortunately, the event really wasn't that good



because the winds were so strong. That's all I have for now. Rick Wise, Communications Officer

Contact: Mike Degrood, Coyote Pass Vice Coordinator 661-332-2308, way2coolwheels@yahoo.com

https://www.facebook.com/groups/4808599665893759

The Coyote Pass Chapter meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Calico's Restaurant, 928-753-5005 418 W. Beale St. ; Kingman, AZ 86401 ###



East Valley Chapter

Contact: Joe Silk, EV Chapter Coordinator 480-628-8598, miterangers@msn.com

The East Valley Chapter meets at 10am on the 3rd Sundays at American Legion Post 138, 1264 W University Dr, Mesa --NW Corner of University & Alma School ###



Holpus Reduce Grashes & Distracted Dettyling

> Mick Degn Executive Director

888-951-3732 Cell 602-312-4554 www.amsaf.org/

High Country Chapter

https://www.facebook.com/ AbateHighCountryChapter

HCC meets 3rd Saturdays @ 10:30a, b'fast 9am @ Stanford Store, (928) 537-7755 4 Apache County Rd 8235 ; (Stanford Rd), Vernon, AZ ###



Chad Lawton Insurance Associate

USI Insurance Services www.usi.com 2375 E Camelback Rd Suite 740, Phoenix, AZ 85016 602-395-0222



MasterLink **Chapter Reports**

Mohave Chapter

Time for another chapter report. Due to a number of unforeseen circumstances, we did not set up a booth at bike week this year. Hate it when life gets in the way of things. I saw a few things and heard many rude things about bike week.

For those who aren't familiar with this area, there is no one specific location associated with Bike Week here. Bike week here consists of a wide range of events. It follows Route 66 from Topoc, into Oatman where there are events, to riding the Rattle Snake up to Cool Springs, then on to Saddle Sore Ranch, thru Kingman and Thunder Rode, all the way up to Seligman, then down to Bullhead City at the Community Park for Mayhem; along with different events along Highway 95, and even filters into Laughlin, NV.

On Tuesday night May 6, our PAC rep Dennis Lange did a presentation at the Kingman City Council meeting for Motorcycle Awareness Month. Denny said the presentation went well.

Due to a major hail, rain storm with



photo: Denny Lange from Mohave Chapter with Kingman City Council proclaiming May is Motorcycle Awareness Month.

localized flooding in Fort Mohave, I did not attempt to make it out of Fort Mohave on my cycle or the car.

Volume 35 Issue 06

Our next chapter meeting is Monday, May 19, 6:00 pm at the VFW in Golden Valley. That is all I have for now, until next month stay safe and ride safe.

Tom Aydt Mohave Chapter Coordinator

> Contact: Tom Aydt Mohave Chapter Coordinator 715-651-0770, tamedic1969@yahoo.com https://www.facebook.com/ groups/263121160987524/

Mohave County Chapter meetings are held at 6pm on the 3rd Monday of the month at: VFW Golden Valley Post 2555 ~ 6068 Supai Dr.; Golden Valley, AZ 86413 ###

Phoenix Chapter

Contact: One T (text only) at 480-768-8747, Ldmaau56a@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/ groups/1640745202851394 Meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30pm at VFW 1433, 7618 N 63rd Ave.; Glendale, AZ 85301 ###

Southern AZ Chapter

Contact: Jeremy Krauss 520-305-0231 or jeremykrauss@gmail.com The Southern Arizona Chapter meets the third Saturday of the month at 10am at the Northwest Tucson Moose Lodge, 2660 W. Ruthrauff Rd Tucson, AZ 85705 https://www.facebook.com/ groups/240701943485586

Yavapai Chapter Contact: Timothy

360-720-3465 or tntblaster@netzero.net

https://www.facebook.com/groups/ ycabateaz

Meet us at 6:30pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month at VFW Bucky O'Neill Post 541, 202 N Arizona Ave ; Prescott 86301

Yuma Chapter

is reorganizing. Want to help share the message of Motorcyclists Rights, Safety, & Awareness in the Yuma area?

Contact Frank 'Hound' White 209-327-0814 ###

June 2025

Please Support Our Business Member: Northwest Tucson Moose Lodge 2543

The Moose organization is a network of fraternal Lodges throughout the United States, four Canadian provinces, plus Great Britain. The Northwest Tucson Moose Lodge #2543 is located at 2660 W Ruthrauff Road in Tucson, AZ 85705. Contact them by phone at 520-406-5565 or email

lodge2543@mooseunits.org

The Moose is about celebrating life, serving those in need, social gatherings, community service, and more. Moose Lodges have a positive impact in their communities ... Volunteer hours and activities are valued between \$75 to \$100 million worth annually (counting monetary donations, volunteer hours worked and miles driven) in over 1500 communities. {from their website https:// www.mooseintl.org/ }

The NW Tucson Moose Lodge is a private membership organization geared toward charitable works. Among their activities is the annual Toy Run, traditionally held in November. NW Tucson Moose Lodge #2543 hosts the ABATE-AZ's Southern AZ Chapter meetings. They are held on the third Saturday of the month at 10am. All are welcome to attend.



NW Moose Lodge 2543

A burden heavy to one is borne lightly by many. Northwest Tucson Moose Lodge 2543 2660 W Ruthrauff Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705 Phone: (520) 406-5565 lodge2543@mooseunits.org

MRF News: H. J. Res. 88 Passes On To President

May 22, 2025 ... Today, the U.S. Senate passed by a vote of 51 to 44, H.J. Res 88, a resolution that would overrule the Environmental Protection Agency's rule allowing California to effectively mandate the sale of electric vehicles over the next decade. This plan by California threatens not only the Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) in California but also the entire country, as several other states have tied their rules to those implemented in Sacramento.

You may remember that earlier in the month, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) put out a call to action urging the U.S. Senate to vote on this resolution as the House of Representatives had passed it in April.

A vote today and two other planned votes on similar Californian proposals are major victories in the defense of ICE. Protecting ICE is a key part of the MRF's 2025 legislative agenda and we are pleased with the actions taken today in the U.S. Senate. This victory, coming the same week as hundreds of bikers met with lawmakers on this same topic, is a sign that we are being seen and heard in Washington, D.C.

Thank you to lawmakers for understanding the need to provide consumers a choice in the type of engine they buy and to all the bikers who spoke up in defense of the Internal Combustion Engine.



About Motorcycle Riders Foundation

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) provides leadership at the federal level for states' motorcyclists' rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs and individual riders. The MRF is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. The MRF is committed to being a national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle and works in conjunction with its partners to help educate elected officials and policymakers in Washington and beyond.

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ABATE's Legislative Update

shared by ABATE-AZ Legislative Director Michael Infanzon, mike@abateofaz.org

Where Are Federal Infrastructure Billions Going?

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021, a \$1.2 trillion initiative, aims to revitalize the United States' aging infrastructure and enhance various sectors, including transportation, broadband, and energy. A recent article from *Governing* introduces the Spending on Infrastructure Toward Equity (SITE) tool developed by the Urban Institute, which provides detailed insights into the allocation of these federal funds across states, counties, and congressional districts. This analysis focuses on the implications of the IIJA for Arizona, examining how the state's infrastructure landscape is being transformed and what this means for its residents and economy.

Transportation Infrastructure

Arizona's transportation infrastructure stands to gain significantly from the IIJA. The state is set to receive an increase of over \$200 million annually over five fiscal years (2022-2026), totaling approximately \$5.3 billion in formula funding. These funds are earmarked for the improvement of roadways and bridges, addressing critical needs in the state's transportation network.

One of the major projects benefiting from this funding is the expansion of Interstate 10 (I-10). Construction is planned for a 26-mile segment from Loop 202 in Chandler to State Route 387 near Casa Grande. This project includes adding a third lane in each direction and making improvements to several interchanges, crossroads, and bridges. Originally slated to begin in 2025, construction was expedited to start in 2023, with completion expected in 2026. The \$1 billion project received a \$95 million federal grant in January 2024, with the state and the Maricopa Association of Governments providing the remaining funds.

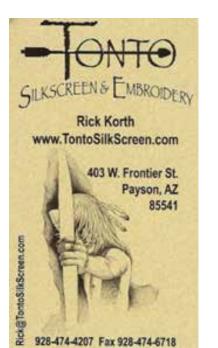
Public Transit Enhancements

The IIJA also focuses on modernizing public transit systems. In Arizona, the Sun Link streetcar system in Tucson, which began service in 2014, exemplifies the type of project that could benefit from federal investment. The 3.9-mile route connects key areas within the city, and potential expansions could further enhance urban mobility. While specific funding allocations for such projects are determined through competitive grants, the IIJA's emphasis on public transit modernization aligns with Tucson's ongoing efforts to improve its transportation infrastructure.

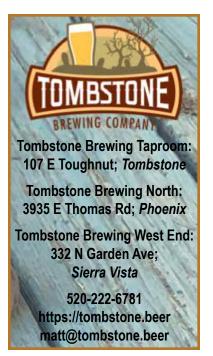
Broadband Expansion

Expanding broadband access is a critical component of the IIJA, with \$65 billion allocated nationally to im-

continues on page 11







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ABATE's Legislative Update

shared by ABATE-AZ Legislative Director Michael Infanzon, mike@abateofaz.org

prove internet connectivity, particularly in underserved and rural areas. Arizona is set to receive \$30 million in guaranteed funding for broadband expansion, with additional competitive grant opportunities available for projects that address energy efficiency, electric grid improvements, and workforce development. This investment aims to bridge the digital divide, ensuring that more Arizonans have access to reliable high-speed internet, which is essential for education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Water Infrastructure and Environmental Resilience

Arizona's arid climate and water scarcity issues make investments in water infrastructure particularly vital. The IIJA provides funding to address water security challenges, including the construction of wastewater treatment plants, water pipelines, and flood detention systems. For instance, Arizona's water authority recently received \$18.5 million to support such projects in rural and Native American communities. These initiatives are crucial for ensuring sustainable water resources and enhancing the state's resilience to drought conditions.

Energy and Clean Technology Investments

The IIJA, in conjunction with the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), is driving significant investments in clean energy and technology sectors. Arizona has emerged as a focal point for semiconductor manufacturing, attracting substantial private investments. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) announced a \$65 billion investment in Phoenix to build a chip fabrication complex, projected to create approximately 6,000 jobs. This development positions Arizona as a leader in semiconductor production, contributing to the state's eco-



nomic growth and technological advancement.

Challenges and Considerations

Despite the influx of federal funds, Arizona faces challenges in fully leveraging these investments. The state's infrastructure received a grade of C from the American Society of Civil Engineers, indicating significant room for improvement. Additionally, the allocation and utilization of funds require careful planning and coordination among state and local agencies to ensure that projects address the most pressing infrastructure needs effectively.

Furthermore, while the IIJA provides substantial formula funding, many projects depend on competitive grants, which necessitate robust applications and, in some cases, matching funds. Smaller communities may struggle to meet these requirements, potentially leading to disparities in infrastructure improvements across the state.

Conclusion

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act represents a transformative opportunity for Arizona to enhance its infrastructure across multiple sectors. From transportation and broadband to water security and clean energy, the state's strategic utilization of federal funds can drive economic growth, improve quality of life, and build resilience against environmental challenges. However, realizing these benefits requires meticulous planning, equitable distribution of resources, and proactive engagement with federal programs. As Arizona navigates this landscape, the insights provided by tools like the SITE dashboard will be invaluable in tracking progress and ensuring that infrastructure investments yield tangible benefits for all Arizonans.



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Please Support Our Business Member: AZ Boot Bootique

ABATE-AZ Business Member AZ Boot Bootique is owned & operated by Mycaah Cannon. The store is located at 4647 E. Chandler Blvd., Suite 4, in Phoenix (Awatukee). Mycaah is also a member of the Awatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce and can be reached at 480-904-7599 or mycaah@azbootco.com

Mycaah is a motorcycle enthusiast who joined ABATE to support ABATE-AZ's goal of motorcycle safety education and training to the public. She is also interested in motorcycle rights legislation.

Her store, AZ Boot Bootique, offers a collection of Unique, One-of-a-Kind, Luxury, Handmade Western



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AMSAF Scholarships Are Currently Available

AMSAF promotes Motorcycle Safety & Awareness. Follow these links ► If the month's allotted scholarships have run out, check back next month.







EV Member Rides South to Support Tucson Area Fundraiser

On Saturday May 17th, I rode from Tempe down to Tucson to support Old Bastards MC and Libertarians MC as they co-hosted their 2nd year event to benefit LPKNC (lpknc.org) and Operation: Cigars for Warriors (cigarsforwarriors.org).

The mission of Liberty Partnership Kino Neighborhoods Council (LPKNC) is to advocate for and enhance education, training, and services for youth, families, and communities. Their goal is to promote mental health, prevent the use/misuse of alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs, promote mental wellness, and suicide prevention. There is much more to learn about this organization at their website as they work to advance positive adolescent development and grow our future leaders.

Operation: Cigars for Warriors sends cigars to our troops wherever they are serving in the world; "to enjoy at the end of a hard day fighting for our country". Donations received go toward cigars and shipping costs.

This fundraiser was held at Barnfire Mesquite Grill on Cortaro Rd and Thornydale in Tucson. It is a motorcycle-friendly business. They sponsored a bike show. There were many great raffle items, a 50/50, support merch for both clubs, and a mountain bike raffle. The band that played was Black Cat Bones; an excellent choice IMO. They played original tunes and some covers. These guys can play!

Many in attendance were ABATE members and our State ABATE President Jim Butsback even made an appearance. Old Bastards Tucson recently lost member Oddball and his absence was felt by many. He is missed by all who knew him ... R.I.P Oddball {top row, center photo}

I highly recommend the food at Barnfire. I had the prime rib, with bacon, brisket, and hot wings for lunch. (I'm on a carnivore diet). The food was great and the service there is excellent. The menu is varied and I would definitely ride there just to eat.

OBMC had one unique hand-made trophy for the bike show winner. The sole category was judged by People's Choice ballots. I entered my bike in the show, urged on by my old friend, OBMC member Mikee. There were many bikes that deserved the win. My personal vote was for OBMC Tucson president Ice Pick's bike; a very rare Supervee III. My bike didn't win anything but it did have a good parking spot.

In between band sets, they held the raffle drawings. I was the lucky winner of a matte black helmet that matches the color of my bike. I must be living right because I also won the 50/50 drawing. The winner's share was \$180. I donated it right back to their cause, which was the whole purpose of the day.

As things wound down, an impromptu burnout session broke out. 2 bikes marked their spot. I missed pics of the first one, but got smoked out by the last one. Payson OBMC member Ratchet really lit it up. Overall, it was a successful day for their charities. The weather was good and fun was had by all.

By Bob Gumfory, East Valley Chapter, ABATE-AZ Life Member



Fighting for Arizona Motorcyclists: ABATE's Legislative Update

shared by ABATE-AZ Legislative Director Michael Infanzon, mike@abateofaz.org

May 11, 2025 ...

ABATE of Arizona Legislative Update – 2025 Session

The 2025 Arizona Legislative Session is shaping up to be one of the most impactful for motorcyclists in years. With several key transportation and rider-focused bills advancing, and others facing delays, we want to keep you in the loop on where things stand, especially on the measures that directly affect the riding community.

Victory for Motorcycle Safety: SB1107 Signed Into Law

SB1107 – Motorcycle Safety Fund Continuation Sponsor: Sen. Shawnna Bolick (R) Status: SIGNED INTO LAW

This is a landmark win for ABATE and all Arizona riders. SB1107 protects the \$1 motorcycle registration fee, ensuring that it stays in the Motorcycle Safety Fund and cannot be swept into the state's General Fund. That money will now be held in trust, by law, and used exclusively for safety programs, rider education, and public awareness campaigns.

Why it matters:

Arizona continues to see rising

Jonathan Thompson CEO

CELL 602-717-2008 1-877-WET-BLADE

Ewa. jwt@reditoo.com

motorcycle fatalities and red-light crashes.

This fund supports critical training and awareness efforts that save lives.

The bill ensures long-term funding stability for motorcycle safety without risking future legislative raids on the fund.

ABATE has been pushing for this protection for years - and we got it done. Riders made this happen through advocacy, education, and showing up.

Thank you to Senator Bolick for leading this charge.

Legislative Update – As of May 11, 2025

While SB1107 is now law, several other bills ABATE is tracking are in motion, some moving forward, others stalled in Senate Rules Committee:

Bills We Support That Are Still Moving:

HB2009 – Vehicle License Tax Exemption for Military SIGNED INTO LAW Allows military personnel within

30 days of deployment to register a

vehicle tax-free for one year. Retroactive refunds are allowed.

HB2192 – I-10 Lane Expansion Between SR85 & Citrus Rd

Awaiting Senate Rules

This \$133M infrastructure bill includes language supporting safer travel lanes, something that can benefit motorcyclists through more thoughtful road design.

HB2235 – "Slower Traffic Keep Right" Signage with Civil Penalties *Awaiting Senate Rules*

This would improve lane discipline across Arizona's major interstates.

Bills We Oppose or Need Amended:

HB2252 – Emissions Standards Tied to California CARB Rules Dead

Would have forced California-style emissions standards onto Arizona, raising compliance costs for motorcycles. ABATE opposed and this bill has stalled - a win for Arizona riders and state autonomy.

SB1086 – ADOT Performance Metrics Bill

Vetoed by Governor Hobbs This measure aimed to reshape continues on page 17



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Fighting for Arizona Motorcyclists: ABATE's Legislative Update

shared by ABATE-AZ Legislative Director Michael Infanzon, mike@abateofaz.org

continues from page 16

how ADOT prioritizes transportation projects with a stronger focus on safety. ABATE supported the bill and sought higher prioritization of motorcycle safety metrics, but the Governor vetoed it.

> Privacy and Freedom Wins in Motion:

SB1019 – Ban on Photo Enforcement (Red-Light Cameras) *Awaiting 3rd Read in House*

Would prohibit photo enforcement systems statewide. ABATE supports this as a civil liberties protection and privacy safeguard.

SB1092 – Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Tracking and Tax Ban Awaiting 3rd Read in House

Would prohibit any VMT tax or tracking by state or local governments. Motorcyclists benefit directly - no GPS tracking, no unfair taxes based on mileage.

Other Key Bills of Interest:

HB2557 – Widening State Route 347 (Maricopa Area) *Awaiting Senate Rules* Safer roadways, wider shoulders, and better-designed traffic flow will benefit all riders. ABATE is monitoring for opportunities to insert motorcycle safety infrastructure.

HB2863 – No Trailers in HOV Lanes

In Committee

A practical safety improvement that ABATE supports in concept. Reduces the risk of trailer-related accidents in HOV lanes which many motorcyclists travel.

SB1517 – OHV Temporary Registration for Out-of-State Riders

PASSED - House Motion to Reconsider

Would have simplified off-road access for nonresident OHV owners. ABATE supported this bill to promote trail access and tourism.

SCM1002 – Rejection of "Vision Zero" Federal Model

Filed with Secretary of State

ABATE supports the resolution's opposition to federally imposed "Vision Zero" transportation frame-works, which can lead to road diets and motorcycle-unfriendly designs.

Summary: What This Means for Arizona Riders:

Motorcycle Safety Fund Secured and Protected (SB1107)

Several pro-rider bills awaiting Senate action

One major emissions bill (HB2252) defeated

Safety scoring bill (SB1086) vetoed disappointing but not the end

TAKE ACTION

Join ABATE of Arizona — Advocacy like this only happens when riders get involved. www.abateofaz.org

Follow ABATE on social media for updates on events, rides, and meetups across the state. Get connected and stay informed.

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Lane Filtering information cards are available from your local Chapter

LANE FILTERING IS LEGAL ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES 28-903 F

The operator of a two-wheeled motorcycle may overtake and pass another vehicle that is stopped in the same direction of travel and in the same lane as the operator and may operate the motorcycle between lanes of traffic if the movement may be made safely and if the operator does both of the following:

1. Operates the motorcycle on a street that both:

(a) is divided into at least two adjacent traffic lanes in the same direction of travel.

(b) Has a speed limit that does not exceed forty-five miles per hour.

2. Travels at a speed that does not exceed fifteen miles per hour.

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Renewing business member D&D Discount Motorcycles is owned & operated by Mark DeSimone. Mark is an avid supporter of Arizona's motorcycling community. Over the years, D&D Discount Motorcycles has sponsored & donated to ABATE of Arizona; including to Too Broke For Sturgis.

D&D Discount Motorcycles is a 20-plus year-old business in Tempe that works on most on-road motorcycles and trikes. They don't work on many off-road motorcycles, quads, or side-by-sides.

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Renewing Business Member: D&D Discount Motorcycles

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- Club or Organization: \$150 annually
- Individual Lifetime Membership: \$350
- Joint Lifetime Membership: \$700

All Bikes, All Riders > JOIN NOW!



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June 2025

MasterLink CALENDAR - Upcoming ABATE-AZ / Members / MRO Events

2nd Saturdays: West Side Roundup Bikes & Breakfast 8:30-11am at GO AZ Peoria, 16844 N Arrowhead Fountains Center Drive, Peoria. Group ride KSU 10am. Sponsors / participants include XCEL Trackdays, ABATE-AZ. FMI: 623-322-6700

Jun 8 {Sun}: Accident Scene Management Class {ASMC} 100 Series Basic Course; at VFW Post 1433, 7618 N 63rd Ave, Glendale. Reduce tuition cost with discount code HWLT. FMI: Trauma Mama 602-908-7989, phxaz.asm@gmail.com, https:// www.facebook.com/azasm1

June 26-29 {Th-Sun}: Too Broke For Sturgis at Grand Canyon Caverns Campground & RV Park. https://www.facebook.com/ Toobrokeforsturgis

Jul 12 {Sat}: Accident Scene Management Class {ASMC} 100 Series Basic Course; at Brever Law Office, 3840 E Ray Rd, Phoenix. Reduce tuition cost with discount code HWLT. FMI:



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Aug 16 {Sat}: Accident Scene Management Class {ASMC} 300 Series Advanced Course; at Breyer Law Office, 3840 E Ray Rd, Phoenix. Reduce tuition cost with discount code HWLT. FMI: Trauma Mama 602-908-7989, phxaz.asm@gmail.com

Sept 25-28 {Th-Sun}: MRF's 41st Annual Meeting of the Minds, being held in Shreveport, Louisiana at Sam's Town Hotel & Casino. FMI: https://www.mrf.org/events | 202-546-0983, email mrfoffice@ mrf.org or Fred@mrf.org

Oct 24-25 {Fr-Sa} ACMC's Riot on the River at Winkleman Park on the Gila River. Games, vendors, music, & more. Save the date. More details TBA. FMI: BilletLDMC@gmail.com

Dec 21 {Sun} AZ Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs {ACMC} Christmas Toy Benefit. Details TBA. FMI: BilletLDMC@gmail.com

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