

February 2017

Hello from the Southern Arizona Chapter. Welcome 2017, and we are excited for all the new year holds.

Southern Arizona Chapter held the monthly meeting on December 17, 2016 at the regular time and location. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Having been postponed from the November meeting the annual election of officers was held. All officers were reelected to their previous positions with the exception of Ron Kool taking the Merchandise position and Becky Garino filling the vacant Communication position. The vote was unanimous. Following the business meeting we held our annual Christmas Party. There was an offering of treats and snacks and the "steal the other guy's gift" exchange. There was also a drawing for two Holiday gift cards, Sean Pinder won the QT card and Herman won the Buffalo Wild Wings card. Always a good time!

Plans are underway for the 2nd Annual Fisher House Benefit/Event on February 18th. Bob Welton, our Run Coordinator is working on making this another great day for Fisher House. Fisher House provides free housing to the families of Veterans receiving treatment at our VA Medical Center. Keeping family close is best for the Veterans needing to be hospitalized. Many families cannot bear the cost of motels and eating out while their loved one is hospitalized, and Fisher House meets those needs. Bob is currently seeking donations and raffle prizes for the event. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend, and remember all proceeds benefit Fisher House. WATCH FOR UPCOMING POSTERS!

There is never a lack of events to attend in Arizona and as A.B.A.T.E. members we can take advantage of every opportunity to represent at the events we attend. Everyone is encouraged to carry applications with them and promote membership in A.B.A.T.E. of Arizona.

On January 7th Jim Butsback, Anissa "Dragonfly" Huntington, Sean Pinder, and I attended the Chapter Officer Training in Phoenix. It was a great day and much more well attended than last year. Thanks so much to MotorcycleSafari.com, and Woody for putting up a \$200 door prize which I was fortunate enough to win. THANK YOU! One of the benefits of attending this meeting is getting to know other members from around the state and spending time sharing ideas and experiences to help us all become more effective in doing the work of A.B.A.T.E. If you missed it plan for next year.

I don't know many of you well so let me tell you a little about myself. I am currently beginning my second year as Secretary of the Southern Arizona Chapter. My husband Don and I moved to Arizona in early 2015. We were members of A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon since 1988. We have been very active in the organization including helping to start two chapters, lobbying, attending runs and events, and serving as chapter officers. Many of our dearest friends, best times and greatest memories came into our lives through A.B.A.T.E. We are very excited to be part of our chapter here in Arizona and look forward to many good times.

There is currently another attempt at requiring helmets in Arizona. In Oregon we once rode free, and I and many others involved in motorcycle rights worked diligently to hold off the mandatory helmet law there. We failed, and the huge lesson is that once a freedom is lost it is almost impossible to regain it. We know, and science demonstrates that helmets are not the answer. Education of riders by building rider skills, education of drivers around sharing the road and watching for motorcycles, and riders and drivers not being distracted or impaired are the best ways to promote safety for motorcyclists. We must preserve the rights we have, and not allow the community to place false hope in laws that pretend to provide safety and solutions.

To accomplish our goals, we must remain informed. Please be aware that we have many forms of communication available to us to assist us in staying informed about what is going on around the state regarding motorcycling and in the legislature. [The Masterlink](#) contains information about what is going on with regard to motorcycle rights and safety in Arizona and around the nation. Please take time to review it monthly as it is available on line if you do not receive a print copy in the mail. We here in the Southern Arizona Chapter have a Facebook page: [Southern Arizona Chapter, ABATE of Arizona](#).

Remember: Ride Safe! Ride Free! Ride Endorsed! Educate - don't legislate!

Becky Garino
Secretary/Communications
Southern Arizona Chapter

Ride Free! Ride Safe! Ride Endorsed!