

March 2017

The monthly meeting of the Southern Arizona Chapter was held on January 21, 2017 at 10 am, at the Kettle Restaurant in Tucson. We welcomed members and 4 guests to the meeting. Planning is under way for the upcoming events in February as well as Too Broke for Sturgis, our State run, which will be here before we know it.

Two events will have taken place by the time this goes to print, Motorcycle Day at the Dome on February 15th, and our Fisher House Benefit Poker Run. Both are important events in their own rights. First, Motorcycle Day at the Dome is an opportunity for motorcycle rights organizations, motorcyclists and motorcycling enthusiasts to let their legislators know how important motorcycling rights and safety are to them, and talk about how current law and pending legislation effects the motorcycling community. It's important for legislators to be informed in a factual manner and to be reminded that motorcyclists comprise a significant voter block in Arizona.

Next is Southern Arizona Chapter's Fisher House Benefit Poker Run on February 18, the second year for this event. Tucson is home of the first Fisher House in Arizona. "The Fisher Houses are built on the premise that a family's love is great medicine and when a loved one is in the hospital, a Fisher House unites families, relieving financial and emotional stress from the veteran in the hospital being away from home and the family from wondering about the care, progress and treatment of their Veteran loved one." Fisher House is located on the grounds of the Tucson Veterans Administration Hospital and until it opened on February 18, 2016. Often our Veterans had to be hospitalized and family members remained at home due to lack of funds for motels, eating out, and other expenses, which creates a high level of stress for both the Veteran and their family. The other scenario was family members, sometimes elderly or with small children sleeping in their cars on the VA property, which is uncomfortable and unsafe, to say the least. The Fisher House has 16 suites for families, a communal kitchen and dining room, a family room, and dining room, laundry facilities, telephone and TV/DVD player. We are honored to host a fund-raising event for this facility which benefits our American Heroes and their families.

It's never too early to start planning for Too Broke for Sturgis. Last year was my first time at this event and it was GREAT! Reminiscent of an old-school bike run, we had a fun time getting to know riders from around Arizona, Nevada, So. California and New Mexico. The Mormon Lake area is beautiful as well. So, plan now, put your pennies away, ask for some time off and get the bike, RV, car, truck or donkey cart ready to roll. Oh yeah, invite your friends too. They don't have to be bikers to enjoy a good campout party with good people.

Meanwhile, Keep the rubber side down, be informed, be active, and "Ride Safe, Ride Smart, Ride Responsible, and Ride Endorsed."

Becky Garino
Communications/Secretary
Southern Arizona Chapter