

November 2016

The season of Elections is upon us. In many cases for many people, the topic of politics causes and acute pain in the back that shoots to the neck and sometimes creates a debilitating migraine. Many people also believe Politics and religion are not proper or polite conversation and should be avoided. That is THE problem. The conversation often does not happen. When the Media sensationalizes campaigns and politics and the establishment Parties nurture the notion to kill the conversation, we eventually get the vitriol of polarized Politics in America that exists today. We the People are not engaging in a conversation or spirited debate. Instead we defer to Partisan operatives. America is shouting past one another to preach to their respective choir of those we identify with, while demonizing the "other side". The culture of Politics in America today is neither healthy nor productive. The United States is in jeopardy of losing what IS great about America. America has been and is great because We the People enjoy the of the protection of free speech to dissent and protest, but also to celebrate and promote the value diversity with competing ideas. To be American is not just our right to challenge authority and assumptions, since the government is by The People it is our Patriotic duty. The false narrative of either/or is often the propaganda spin. There is often a third way or an all of the above approach to move forward. We will not grow as "congregation" by preaching to the choir. We do not need to agree or condone THEM, but we can at least understand or accept that what is right for me may not be right for everyone. Don't take my word for it, Matthew 5:46 reads "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?" There is no reward or growth for a person to simply engage with the likeminded. So, the "Impolite" conversation is both American and Christian.

This is also true for the Motorcycle community. Motorcyclists need to engage in our communities. We need to have conversations with THEM, until we all become US in a greater sense of community where there is no right or wrong, just different. In my opinion, High Country Chapter is successful because they have great community ties beyond ABATE and the MMA. Last Year, Southern AZ made an important step with an event to benefit the VA Fisher House in Tucson, and another event in planning promises to continue those efforts. I am encouraged by the potential of what ABATE can be to promote and protect motorcycling when THEM is now US having a conversation to dispel misconceptions of each other and seek a consensus.

However, the promise ABATE of AZ to grow its congregation requires a Preacher and Choir. Lately, Chapter attendance has dipped in Southern AZ, and the Church of ABATE to educate legislators and THEM needs believers to step up and have those impolite conversations with Choir and THEM to grow the congregation to promote and protect motorcycling through conversations to educate our own and others in regards of Rights and Safety. ABATE of AZ is an all-volunteer organization, so every member and officer, or Congregation and Choir needs to exists for the ABATE to exist.

As I said, election season is upon us and not just the Presidential and down ballot elections in November. ABATE of AZ needs the Congregation to step up to be the Choir, or the music could be silenced regarding Motorcycle Rights and Safety. ABATE needs Officers and Board members. If you care about Motorcycling and Saving a life that can your own, then I am asking the Congregation, all members to engage by stepping up as an Officer, attending meetings, attending events, responding to Calls to Action, or simply becoming a member of ABATE of AZ. Volunteering is the most rewarding experience, but we all need to respect that fact that both the Congregation, Choir and our Preacher are all volunteers. The first step is to show up. If you care about motorcycling, please show up.

During the next few months, ABATE of AZ needs to nominate and elect Chapter Officers and their respective Board members. These leaders need their support by members attending meetings events so we can be an effectual organization. So, please show up and lets' keep the conversation going among ourselves so we may realize the promise to engage our communities to expand our impact to protect and promote motorcycling. To borrow a line based on Governor Huey P Long, "If you don't vote you don't matter." I may add in regards to an all-volunteer nonprofit, like ABATE of AZ, that if you do not show up, then that tree will fall without a sound because no one was around. We then shall mourn the passing of motorcycling.

Also, be sure to vote in November. I will close by deferring to the eloquence of G.K Chesterton who said, "I do not believe in a fate that falls on men however they act; but I do believe in a fate that falls on men unless they act "

So, vote & show up, or forever hold your peace.

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ABATE of AZ | Southern AZ Chapter BOD
MMA & MMA of AZ Member | MRF & AMA Member