

# OutSpokin'

JANUARY  
2026



ABATE  
OHIO



AMERICAN BIKERS AIMED TOWARDS EDUCATION

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Board Seat "A"

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Board Seat "B"

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WHAT YOU RIDE  
WE ALL RIDE FOR  
FREEDOM OF THE ROAD"

We Want You



To Ride With Us!

# ABATE of OHIO

The mission statement of ABATE of Ohio is to promote and defend motorcyclist's freedom, safety and awareness through education and legislation to make Ohio the best place to ride.

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### HOTLINE

Call the **HOTLINE** anytime for any info or to contact any officer

**1-800-25-BIKER**

*ABATE of OHIO encourages all members to submit letters, articles or cartoons they feel may be of interest to fellow members.*

*ABATE of OHIO supports the rights of ALL motorcyclists,*

*ABATE of OHIO does not endorse any products or services other than its own.*

### DISCLAIMER

*The thoughts and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ABATE of OHIO board and its members.*

# CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

## Kolman Fuzy



Greetings, All ABATE members:

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a safe New Year. As of this writing, the political Santa did not leave us a Substitute HB 357 present under the tree. However, since this is being written in the beginning of December, there is a possibility that a surprise placement of 357 on the Judiciary Committee agenda might still occur. Hope springs eternal. Please continue to push for its inclusion on that agenda.

In my previous article I stated that election results would be in my January article, and in the OutSpokin'. Since the State elections have not yet occurred, this article will not have results posted. My February article will recap those results. However, if deadlines permit it, the results might make the January OutSpokin'. Guess we'll just have to see how it plays out.

Regarding those elections, I would like to once again express my gratitude to all Officers, whatever level they may be on for stepping up to help do the heavy lifting in advancing the cause. To those stepping out, please do not go away, we still need ya. To those coming in or moving to different positions, welcome aboard! I am proud every member of ABATE for being a member and for giving a shit!!

I would also like to single out two individuals for their accomplishments this past year: Donna Sam for her outstanding work in putting out our excellent newsletter (and for her unending patience with my dumbass) and Lion Man for his efforts in drafting HB 357 and for all his hard work in getting it introduced. Both of you deserve high praise for jobs well done.

As we all know, a new year does not magically make the issues we are dealing with disappear into thin air. We must continue to be vigilant, educate ourselves to the best of our abilities, and be ready to meet whatever challenges we face. I know we will do just that.

I am sure that I might be omitting some things, but I find my inspiration level starting to ebb, so I will wrap this up. I hope you all stay safe and healthy.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kolman Fuzy*

[Chairofboard@ABATE.com](mailto:Chairofboard@ABATE.com)

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614.332.0198 (cell)

# 2026 Winter Meltdown

## Saturday February 21, 2026



AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 737



16465 Milton Ave, Lake Milton, OH 44429

**Dinner Hour**  
**5:30-6:30**

**The Magic of  
Robert Lane**



**HUGE BASKET RAFFLE**



Hosted by ABATE of Ohio, Inc. Region Zero

**\$15 After Dinner**

**Presale Music From  
\$20 at the Door The Syndicate**

ABATE of Ohio, Inc. is a 501.c.4 not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving the rights, improving the image, and promoting the safe operating practices for all Ohio motorcyclists.

ABATE/CMRO



OHIO

APRIL, 1989

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2



TECHNO-WIZARD MEETS JAY LENO

PAGE 14

COMING SOON....

NCOM CONVENTION IN CLEVELAND

PAGE 7

MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS RALLY IN COLUMBUS



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Here is a couple of pictures of Dan Waterfield with Jay leno from back in the day. 1989 Dan Waterfield was the Region 7 Director and the first Executive Director of ABATE of Ohio.

# ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE CITY OF INVENTION

## 2026 NCOM CONVENTION

### MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> TO THE 9<sup>TH</sup>



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PRE-REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY May 2nd  
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Name

Phone

Address

City

State

Zip

Organization

\$120.00 Convention Registration (Includes Silver Spoke Award Banquet)

Please check main course preference:  Chicken  Beef  Vegetarian  
If you do not select a preference, a beef entree will be provided for your dinner.

\$65.00 Registration ONLY (Silver Spoke Banquet not included)

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**TIRED OF HEARING ABOUT BIKERS GETTING HIT  
BY INATTENTIVE DRIVERS  
BEING SERIOUSLY INJURED OR KILLED?**

Then you must be tired of the people causing these crashes getting a slap on the wrist and then going about their lives like they never did anything, leaving the victim's families in turmoil.

Now there is something you can do about it. No, unfortunately we can't make people slow down and look for motorcyclists. But what we can do is make the penalties more substantial and hope that the public awareness that comes with the increased penalties will give them reason to "look twice and save a life"!

ABATE of Ohio Inc. has begun the hard work to make this happen. After 2½ years we got a bill introduced into the Ohio House of Representatives, House Bill 357, that will increase the penalties for vehicular assault and vehicular manslaughter from being a minor misdemeanor (a slap on the wrist) to misdemeanors of the first offense, which will allow for stiffer fines and possible jail time.

While H. B. 357 is a move in the right direction, we firmly believe that if you kill someone you should be charged with a felony. With that in mind, we kept pushing for a bill with stronger penalties. After much hard work, we were able to get substitute H.B. Sub 357 introduced in the Ohio House. This is a much more efficient bill because Sub. 357 does change Vehicular Homicide to a F 4 (currently a misdemeanor 1) and Vehicular Manslaughter to a Felony 5 (currently a minor misdemeanor) and keeps Vehicular Assault as a misdemeanor 1 as is in the original H.B. 357 (currently a minor misdemeanor).

When a bill is introduced, it is assigned to a committee for hearings. So, both bills are currently in front of the Ohio House Judiciary Committee, and they will decide which bill to move forward. The Judicial Committee will begin hearing bills in Mid-January but we don't know when they will get to H. B. 357.

If you believe that people who kill someone through neglectful operation of a motor vehicle, (all vehicles, this bill has no language mentioning motorcycles), then we are requesting that you first contact all members of the Judiciary Committee asking them to support Substitute Bill 357.

Next we are requesting that you write your local House of Representative letting them know you support Sub. H. B. 357 and asking them to become a co-signer for this bill.

If you do not know who your House member is simply google "Find my Ohio House of Representative" then select "District Map: Enter your full address below to find your district". This will show you your house member and the district they represent. Then click on their name and you will get their mailing address and office phone number. Get your friends, family members and any acquaintance do to the same thing. You don't have to be an ABATE member, you don't have to be politically active, you don't have to ride a motorcycle to make this happen. All you have to do is realize this change needs to be made and you want it to happen.

ABATE of Ohio Inc. is a statewide organization and people are doing this from all sides of Ohio.

Again, don't wait for a friend or relative to get killed or seriously hurt or killed before you take some actions to make a difference.

**Please write, E-mail or call all the committee members and inform them of what we want, especially the chairman of the committee. Below is a copy of the E-mail I sent to each of the committee members. Feel free to use any or all parts of it as a guide on what you should write or say. Let's make our voices be heard!**  
I am contacting you regarding H.B. 357 which has been assigned to the Judicial Committee. While H. B. 357 is a move in the right direction, I firmly believe that if you kill someone you should be charged with a felony. I believe that substitute bill H.B. Sub 357 is a much more efficient bill because Sub. 357 does change Vehicular Homicide to a F 5 (currently a misdemeanor 1) and Vehicular Manslaughter to a Felony 5 (currently a minor misdemeanor) and keeps Vehicular Assault as a misdemeanor 1 as is in the original H.B. 357 (currently a minor misdemeanor).

The basis for this action is not an isolated event. Almost every day in Ohio, especially in the summer, someone is losing their life or being seriously injured due to inattentive drivers, especially motorcycle and bicycle riders and even pedestrians.

While neither H. B. 357 nor the more efficient Sub. H. B. 357 will change the fact that someone was killed or seriously injured, we believe, and it has been shown with other legal issues, that increasing penalties has changed and increased drivers' attention to the responsibilities of operating a vehicle on Ohio roadways.

Please consider approving Sub. Bill 357.

If you would like to have further conversations regarding activities ABATE of Ohio Inc has done prior to this legislation to reduce risk, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
William "Lion Man" Dodge  
State Legislative Director of ABATE Of Ohio Inc.  
Phone number: 330-718-3066  
Email: AbateLionMan@gmail.com

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ed Schetter



You know, I can't believe I just had to write 2026 on the top of this report. Where did 2025 go? It seems like just yesterday we were planning on what to do with the newly elected Legislature.

2026 will be a big year for ABATE of Ohio. Reflecting on everything that has happened since 1978. A helmet law got shot down. Insurance Companies were forced to close loopholes that could leave you without coverage, even though you thought you had it. The Motorcycle Ohio program was created to make motorcycle training affordable to everyone. Multiple (and I mean multiple) attempts to use the motorcycle highway safety funds for something other than what they were collected for were thwarted. Motorcyclist's rights have been defended. And Ohio became the first state to guarantee the choice in how you power your vehicle and it's accessories (Anti-CARB.)

Yeah, a lot of great people have put a bunch of work in over the last 40 plus/ almost 50 years to make Ohio a better place to ride and enjoy the biker lifestyle. Now I ask you, "What are we going to do to improve and defend it for the next call it 50 years?" We face some great challenges. Autonomous vehicles, will they be able to see us. Intelligent transportation systems and will they accommodate us. All the data collected by all the electronic equipment and who owns it. All challenges we must face.

At Meeting of the Minds this year there was a lot of discussion about "Talk"ers and "Do"ers. Every one of us can stop at the local tavern and run into "Talk"ers. I have worked with my fair share also. If you log into social media there are a whole bunch there. They are big on the mouth but somewhat vacant when it comes time to get the work done.

Maybe that's why we are such a successful grass roots organization. We give the "Do"ers a place to go and be with other "Do"ers. Less than 3% of the population belong to an organization that defends their rights. Any kind of rights. That's where the 3% badge or the III badge came from.

Let's be the "Do"ers for the next 50 years and give our children and grandchildren the opportunity to enjoy the same ones we enjoy. We have one more year of this Legislature to get a Right of Way bill passed (thanks for all the hard work Lion Man.)

Enjoying the ride

*Ed Schetter*

Proud & Grateful Executive Director  
ABATE of Ohio Inc.



# Editor's NOTE

giving directions (or whatnot)... do that too. As long as you're on a bike, looking at bikes, or just thinking about bikes, it's OK!!

The other thing I've been grateful for this year is this magazine to make me crazy and keep me sane at the same time. It's been a bit of a tough year. I've gotten to know a lot of you better and that's pretty cool. I'd like to make it out to some of your events, so that's why it's important to supply me with flyers on your meetings, your events and most importantly, your runs. Thanks in advance, hope to see you out there somewhere.

At your service....

*Donna Sam*

Call or text 330.540.6210  
donnasam@zoominternet.net



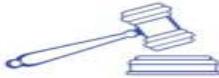
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## **Region 8**

First off Happy New Year to everyone reading this. Secondly, I would like to thank the outgoing Director Mike Poole for working so hard the past few years and wish him well in his future endeavors. Thanks to all the rest of the outgoing officers and welcome the new officers for 2026.

I was voted (ok, my name was the only name on the ballot LOL) in as the new Region 8 Director for 2026. I will work hard to keep this region running and my goal is to work more with at least our adjoining regions. We ALL need to work together. One great goal we attained in 2025 was our Gold Star Group signage from the State of Ohio for our outstanding and longstanding commitment to the "Adopt-A-Highway Litter Program". We have a nice section of State Route 39 that we work on in the Spring through Fall months. Thanks to our group for the great work!!!!!!

We have Miller Lite Canton Motorcycle swap meet coming up on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Stark County Fairgrounds.

Lastly there are some photos of our last meeting in December and our Christmas Gathering. We had enough food to feed and army!

*Sherry Hill... Director*

## **Region 9**

Region 9 is now meeting at Ohio Brewing on the first Sunday each month thru April.

We had a successful Toy Run in November. See the video clip on our Facebook page. We are also participating in the WCMH TV 4 here in Columbus for their toy drive December 13<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully also a Video clip on our page from the live TV spot as we go through.

Also our Operation Santa effort this year was very successful and we will be able to help some Military families thru the holiday season.

*Chris Lappart... Director*

## **Region 10**

"As we all survive the winter and wait for those balmy 40-50°f days to get a quick ride in or two, I hope we are all getting down to the final stages of our updates and upgrades on our bikes tucked away in their cozy spots in the garage. Or perhaps you let the old friend go and are preparing for a new arrival this early spring! Either way, Region 10 hopes everyone is ready for a fantastic 2026 riding season!

Meanwhile, we have been working behind the scenes on setting up some bike blessings across the region and hammering out details on some new group rides and reviving some old fan favorites from years past(who else enjoys the picturesque view of a covered bridge?) So it is VERY important any member of Region 10 show up to hear and be heard on what we have going on! Can't wait to see you all at the meetings and out on the road again! Stay safe out there friends!"

*Terry Wiseman... Director*

## **Region 16**

We had a nice meeting on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup>. All officers are holding the same positions!!!!

THANKS!!!! Thanks Danny for doing a bang up job as treasurer!!!!!! We are still selling raffle tickets ... \$5 each or 5 for \$20...I sold a lot at the ABATE State meeting....Thanks to all that bought some!!!! Moving forward on our "Out of Hibernation" gathering....Flier should be out soon!!! Will be held at the Holmesville American Legion Post 551....Cowboy is getting the sponsors together.....

*Kevin Ketchum... Events director*



*Just a small part of the Region Zero crew for the Christmas party/officer elections. T A Brown, Michelle Dodge, TJ Johnson, Mary Kay Johnson, Bertie Morrissey, John Morrissey, Donna Sam. We're missing our treasurer Liz Roller and outgoing Deputy Director Randy Kibler and incoming Deputy Director Greg Brown*





# SAFETY EDUCATION

Hello from the Safety & Ed Director Desk,

Motorcycle Ohio has been working on an online classroom for some time, and the fruits of their labor have come to fruition. Fall of 2025 they began testing the program at a few training sites. Tweaks were made and now for 2026 they will begin a roll out at a handful of training sites. They are hoping if all goes well there will be a complete roll out July 2026.

To training sites are not obligated to run online classrooms but MO asks that all training sites have at least 2 online classrooms in 2026 to see how it goes for them.

This is a huge win for all those students who may live far away from a training site and that determines if they even sign up because they cannot get to the classroom due to time constraints. We are hoping that with this access it will allow more people that want training to get it.

The online classroom will follow the Riders Guide as it will have 9 units. Each unit will have questions at the end, and you must pass that unit before you proceed to the next unit. Once you start you can stop and then start up again at your leisure. Once you have passed all 9 units you will receive an email stating that, but you MUST pass the online classroom and the Range Skill Evaluations before you can receive your certificate to be endorsed.

Now you can even take the “range portion” of the class before you take the online classroom but again you must PASS both to attain a certificate from MO to get your endorsement. Example: You start the classroom get to unit 5 the week of the on-Range training. You go to the range and pass the skill evals. You wait 2 weeks after that to resume the online classroom but pass the remaining units. Only then will you receive your certificate to attain your endorsement at the BMV.

If you have any questions, hopefully I did not confuse anyone, just let me know!

Registration for the 2026 season will begin January 26, 2026 at 9am!

*Sherry Hill*  
Safety & Ed State Director

# LEGISLATIVE NEWS



Welcome to 2026. This is the second and last year of the 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Ohio. We have not had any action on our bill to increase penalties for those who kill someone due to negligent driving. In this publication there is a clear reworked cover letter giving you all the information you need to understand what this bill does, why it is so important and what you can do to make this bill get passed.

I hope you all have written, called or emailed your local house member, and all the members of the judiciary committee. If you have, and it has been a while, send another one. They are not paying someone to check how many times you contacted them. If you don't know what I am talking about then you need to read the cover letter. Remember nowhere in this legislation are the words motorcycle or motorcyclists used. ***This bill will benefit all vehicle operators who get seriously injured or killed due to someone else's poor driving choices.***

There has not been much happening with the lane splitting issue, and honestly it will be an uphill fight for that issue.

As always, we will keep you informed on any and all issues pertaining to our lifestyle here in this publication. If you have any questions or comments you want to make to me directly my contact information can be found in here also.

Remember the state officers can only do so much. It takes you, the members, to make progress happen.

Be safe out there.

*Lion Man*



# HOUSE BILL 357

**House Bill 357** which we got introduced and assigned to a committee, is only the first step. It raises vehicular homicide, vehicular manslaughter and vehicular assault all to a misdemeanor 1 charge. We believe that taking someone's life should be a felony. Substitute Bill 357 does move vehicular homicide and vehicular manslaughter to felonies. The committee will hold a hearing after which they will decide on which bill they will put forth for additional hearings.

**Please write, E-mail or call all the committee members** and inform them of what we want, especially the chairman of the committee. Below is a copy of the E-mail I sent to each of the committee members. Feel free to use any or all parts of it as a guide on what you should write or say. Let's make our voices be heard!

LION MAN

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Please consider approving Sub. Bill 357.

If you would like to have further conversations regarding activities ABATE of Ohio Inc has done prior to this legislation to reduce risk, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

William "Lion Man" Dodge  
State Legislative Director of ABATE Of Ohio Inc.

Phone number: 330-718-3066  
Email: [AbateLionMan@gmail.com](mailto:AbateLionMan@gmail.com)

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## CAFE Rollback Reopens Door For Internal Combustion Choice

This week, President Trump announced a major rewrite of the federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. The proposal rolls back the fuel-economy targets established during the previous administration, targets that automakers argued could not be met without a rapid shift toward electric vehicles. The administration framed the change as a return to the original purpose of CAFÉ, focusing on fuel efficiency, rather than forced electrification.

The move fits into a broader regulatory shift. Earlier this year, lawmakers revoked California's EPA waiver, which allowed the state to impose stricter emissions rules and effectively push zero-emission vehicle mandates. That waiver had become one of the most powerful national drivers of EV adoption, as many other states follow California's standards. Removing it, combined with the newly proposed CAFE reset, amounts to a coordinated effort to ease regulatory pressure that had been steering manufacturers away from internal-combustion engines.

For the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF), this moment is significant. While the proposal directly affects cars and trucks, rules of this kind are frequently expanded over time to include motorcycles, making this development especially relevant to the riding community. For the MRF, preservation of the internal-combustion engine is a core legislative priority, and the proposed standards may help maintain space in the marketplace for ICE technology. By lowering regulatory pressure on automakers, these changes could strengthen consumer access to gas-powered vehicles and slow the trend toward policy-driven electrification. For riders, that translates into a greater likelihood that motorcycles powered by traditional engines remain affordable, viable, and widely available.

While the proposal will face public comment and probable legal challenges, the shift signals a meaningful change in federal regulatory direction. For motorcyclists who value mechanical choice and the performance characteristics of internal-combustion engines, the administration's actions may mark a favorable step toward preserving the freedom to choose how they ride.

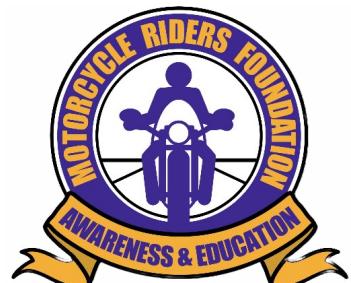
Happy New Year Everyone!

If you need any assistance in renewing your membership, just contact me. I will help you as much as possible.

In closing, be safe & educated!!!

Till next time .....

Sherry Hill, Ohio MRF Rep  
330-415-6272  
[shill.ohiomrf@gmail.com](mailto:shill.ohiomrf@gmail.com)





## Ask Our Lawyer

by Rod Taylor - ABATE Legal Services

### IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA TO CONSULT WITH ABATE LEGAL BEFORE ACCEPTING A CHECK FROM THE INSURANCE COMPANY

If you are injured in an accident or have had your bike or car trashed, you should consult with us before accepting a check from the insurance company. Our consultation is free. If the offer from the insurance company is fair, we will tell you so and send you on your way.

Even if it is a bit short the offer may still put more money in your pocket after fees, expenses,

and time for litigation. With any settlement, all you should care about is how much money goes into your pocket.

In minor cases where the offer is close to fair, we advise our members to say the following to the insurance company, "I would like to get this matter concluded but you are low on the offer so how about increasing your offer before we go to Rod Taylor and have him help us with this case?" That works a lot of the time when the insurance company is a little off the fair mark in its offer, and usually they will sweeten the offer to get the matter resolved quickly, and thereby cut out the middleman. Remember, their job is to pay you as little as possible.

Some insurance companies will try and get a check to you immediately, usually for less money, hoping that you will accept a lower amount right away. They know you have bills to pay and money may be short. They try the old "bird in hand approach." They are trained to do that - not fair but that is the way it is. You should consult with us to evaluate whether the offer will be enough to cover your damages before accepting any checks.

Importantly you need to know the status of any liens held by your insurance company and medical providers for amounts paid/incurred because of your crash. And the V.A. and Medicaid Medicare issues are nightmarish. You definitely need us for those matters. Usually, your health and auto insurers have language in your policy that requires you to pay them back for the amounts they have paid to you or on your behalf. The last situation you want to be in, is one where you accept a check from the insurance company only to find it does not cover your losses, leaving you stuck to pay the remaining bills and liens that should have been paid by the insurance company. And you don't want all of the above lienholders knocking on your door trying to take away some of your settlement dough.

Remember, once you accept a check and sign a release to settle your claims, there is no turning back. Short of being crazy, drunk, incapacitated, gun to your head or blackmailed when you sign the release and accept the check - you are stuck - almost no matter how unfair the settlement or how many liens you have to pay. So, call your lawyer or your ABATE Legal Services team and schedule a free consultation if you get the offer you think you can't refuse.

### HE GOT AN OFFER HE COULDN'T REFUSE FROM THE INSURANCE COMPANY

A while back, an ABATE member was involved in a car/farm tractor crash. A young girl crashed into the back of his farm tractor knocking him off the tractor and puncturing a main tire. He was treated and released at the emergency room, incurring a bill for those services and a replacement tractor tire. A New York minute hadn't passed before the friendly insurance adjuster was knocking on his door offering him money for his losses. (They are my insurance company, and we have a love - hate relationship.) As the ABATE MEMBER was a stand-up American kind of guy - had never sued or been sued in his life - he thought the offer was fair and accepted it and signed a release - only days after the crash. He thought he was ok physically, taking a "rub dirt on it approach."

When I talked to him, he had just returned from his neurosurgeon's office. He needed back surgery, and probably would not be able to drive a farm tractor again. I told him to send me the document that he signed and was hoping it was a release for the damages to his tractor tire only. Some insurance companies will try and be a good guy and settle the property damage separately from the bodily injury. Not in this case.

The adjuster did a great job for his company (that is what he is supposed to do) in obtaining a total and complete release for all damages - including the bodily injury damages. Remember it is you versus them. They are not your friend. My heart sank when I reviewed the document. Yep - it was a document that fully released all of my client's claims and would be held against him no matter how unfair. I suppressed a desire to say, "why didn't you call me and have me look at the release before you signed it?" Now, my only choice was to contact the insurance company and argue that the settlement was unfair - grovel in other words. And that is what I did.

Even though I knew and had gone to school with its general counsel and pulled out all the stops I could think of - there was no joy. I had tried. Their lawyer told me what I was hoping not to hear - "your client signed a full and complete release, and we are holding him to it." Damn. So, I had the un-high honor of calling my client and saying what I have said too many times before, "short of being crazy, drunk, incapacitated, gun to his head when he signed, or otherwise blackmailed, he was screwed." Moral of the story? Always call us or any lawyer worth half his salt when you get an offer that seems like you can't refuse. It will save me from groveling before the insurance company and giving my "gun to the head speech" to you.

Confirm every conversation with the insurance company in writing (email) and feel free to show a cc to me as your lawyer. That could encourage them to do the right thing. Give the insurance company the names of the investigating police officers so they can get the investigation information directly. Help them help you. That way they have a report – a verbal report from the officer's counts. Then the insurance should pay promptly for the damage caused by your neighbor. By the way, what is the name of the insurance company? I would like to expose their delay tactics. Rod

Postscript: The Chief of Police prepared an official report in light of the insurance company's insistence. Now the insurance company is left without any excuse to avoid/delay payment for damages caused by the neighbor's failures.

### **REVENGE FIRING - IS IT LEGAL?**

**Q:** I work at a local manufacturing shop. I got hurt on the job recently and filed a worker's comp claim. Shortly after I returned to work, I got fired, and I don't think they had any reason. Also, when they fired me, they didn't pay me my accrued vacation pay. What can I do?

**A:** Maybe quite a lot. One of the first issues to consider is the reason or reasons you were fired. Generally, employers will give some explanation as to why an employee was being fired. Most states, including Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, have provisions in their statutes that forbid so-called "retaliatory discharge," or being fired for filing a worker's compensation claim. While it may be obvious to us to make the connection between the worker's comp claim and the firing, the employers will often attempt to justify the discharge with evidence that there were other reasons for the discharge. Good record-keeping and sympathetic witnesses can help overcome this hurdle. Penalties for retaliatory discharge can include back pay, reinstatement, and attorney's fees. In addition, the wage claim statutes in Indiana and Illinois also require that, upon discharge, employees are compensated for accrued vacation time, usually by the next scheduled payday. Failure to do so may lead to additional penalties and an award of attorney's fees. The answer is much less clear under Ohio law and may depend on whether the employee is covered by a collective bargaining agreement or employed by a state or municipal agency. There may be disagreements, however, over whether the time has been accrued or not, or how much has been accrued. It is important that you speak to someone about these issues as soon as possible to determine your rights and remedies.

### **CRAZY IS AS CRAZY DOES - LOANING YOUR MOTORCYCLE**

**Q:** My buddy wants to borrow my bike for a ride to Florida. He lost his license a couple of years ago and says he just got it back. Although he's been riding for years, he's never gotten his motorcycle endorsement and has had several accidents. He told me his insurance would cover the bike, but I'm kind of nervous about letting him on my bike.

**A:** And you should be. As we all know, most riders are extremely safety conscious, taking care to make sure that their bikes are in tip-top shape and that their skills remain sharp and focused. Unfortunately, there are those who don't take those responsibilities seriously. While we are generally not our brother's keeper, if we allow someone who shouldn't be riding on our bike, his problem could become our problem.

Generally, a vehicle owner is not responsible for the actions of a person who is operating the vehicle. However, most states allow a claim of negligent entrustment, which happens when an owner allows someone to operate the owner's vehicle when that person is not qualified to do so. Allowing your buddy to take your bike may make you responsible for any accident he causes, if it turns out that he was unqualified and that you should have known that he was unqualified. Tell him that if he wants to borrow your motorcycle, get a motorcycle endorsement. Then request a copy of the declarations page (summary of his coverages) from his insurance policy.

*Rod Taylor*  
**ABATE Legal Services**

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**2025** Day after Bikers Inside Beltway, Senate acts on HJ Resolutions resulting in revocation of waivers to California Air Resources Board (CARB).

**2024** MRF leads Congressional Motorcycle Caucus "Ride To Work" on the streets of Washington DC to promote Motorcycle Awareness.

**2024** MRF representatives officially appointed to the Federal Motorcycle Advisory Council (MAC)

**2023** Six MRF members selected to the "Community of Practice" groups, updating federal motorcycle safety guidelines.

**2023** MRF meets with NTSB officials, discussing concerns over Autonomous Vehicles (AV) not recognizing motorcycles.

**2022** U.S. House Passes H. Res 366 Motorcyclist Anti-Profiling Resolution

**2022** Government funding bill includes language directing NHTSA to report back to Congress on activities and policies related to the profiling of bikers

**2022** 27 Members of Congress send letter to NHTSA seeking answers on recent crashes involving autonomous vehicles and motorcycles

**2022** Inducted into the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame

**2018** By unanimous consent, the U.S. Senate Passes S. Res 154 – Motorcyclist Anti-Profiling Resolution

**2012** National Transportation Safety Board drops motorcyclists from "Top Ten" list

**2012** Established the MRF Industry Council allowing aftermarket manufacturers to be more involved with the bikers' rights movement

**2009** Held the first national motorcycle lobby day event in Washington, DC

This just scratches the surface!  
For more MRF history, visit [MRF.org](http://MRF.org)



Motorcycle Riders Foundation  
PO Box 9090, Peoria, IL 61612  
202-546-0983 | [mrfoffice@mrf.org](mailto:mrfoffice@mrf.org)

Annual Individual Membership \$35  
 Annual Joint Membership \$60  
 Annual Sustaining Membership \$100  
 Annual Independent Motorcycle Aftermarket Membership \$100

Individual Auto-Renewal Membership \$35  
 Joint Auto-Renewal Membership \$60  
 Sustaining Individual Auto-Renewal Membership \$100

3-Year Individual Membership \$95  
 3-Year Joint Membership \$140  
 Sustaining Membership Club \$100  
 Freedom Fighter Donation \$10 \$25 \$50

Motorcycle Riders Foundation  
PO Box 9090, Peoria, IL 61612



Phone: 202.546.0983  
[www.mrf.org](http://www.mrf.org)

[mrfoffice@mrf.org](mailto:mrfoffice@mrf.org)

It's time you did something more to protect your rights! Join and Support Motorcycle Riders Foundation

New  
 Renewal

Referred by Debbie Stondell  
 Please check if you are a US Citizen  
 Check here to NOT receive patches and pins  
 Check here to NOT receive MRF Email alerts  
 Check here to receive MRF Newsletter electronically (email)



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Visa  MasterCard  AmEx  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE 12 HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVES FOR THE MOTORCYCLE RIDERS FOUNDATION (MRF)

- Autonomous Vehicles: Advocate and monitor any legislation or regulations related to motorcycles concerning connected and autonomous vehicles.
- Crash Avoidance: Continue to promote the theme of crash avoidance versus safer crashing, urging the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to focus on crash prevention and support rider education by providing funding and other resources.
- Data Recording: Pursue legislative language that any collected or available vehicle data is the property of the consumer and in which the consumer has the choice of whether to opt-in to having their personal data communicated to interested parties.
- Definition of a Motorcycle: Educate policymakers and advocate for change to the current definition that better reflects the current two and three-wheel motorcycle landscape.
- Emission Regulations: Engage the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) & Congress on any activity related to motorcycle emission regulations.
- Helmet Laws/Equipment Mandates: Oppose any mandatory federal helmet or personal protective equipment/apparel mandates.
- Internal Combustion Engines: Work to ensure the survival of internal combustion engines.
- Profiling: Sustain lobbying efforts for the passage of resolutions or legislation that promote awareness and the prohibition of motorcyclist profiling.
- Renewable Fuels: Advocate for targeted changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).
- Right to Repair/Modify: Protect and advocate for "Right to Repair" provisions that allow consumers the ability to repair and modify their motorcycles.
- Surface Transportation Reauthorization (Highway Bill): Advocate and pursue legislative efforts related to the next highway bill reauthorization (the current act is set to expire in 2026).
- Vulnerable Roadway User Terminology: Monitor and ensure that motorcycles and motorcyclists are a specific and unique category or classification.



# Independent Motorcycle Aftermarket **PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS!**

It's time for independent aftermarket motorcycle businesses to unite and join the **Independent Motorcycle Aftermarket**. The IMA is a growing network of aftermarket shops and suppliers who believe in unity in purpose toward common goals.

## Unity in purpose includes:

- ✓ Passage of Right to Repair legislation
- ✓ Protect the right to modify
- ✓ Protect the internal combustion engine
- ✓ Maintain the availability of fuels not harmful to motorcycle engines
- ✓ Fight End of Life Directives

Join your independent motorcycle business owning peers to protect our investment and the future of motorcycling. The **Independent Motorcycle Aftermarket** works with the Motorcycle Riders Foundation and has your back!



[www.mrf.org](http://www.mrf.org)



## **CHECK TWICE - SAVE A LIFE MOTORCYCLES ARE EVERYWHERE!!!**

*Common causes of motor vehicle vs. motorcycle accidents include:*

**MAKING LEFT TURNS** - Before turning LEFT, CHECK TWICE to ensure no motorcycle is coming. You're conditioned to look for cars and trucks, and it is easy to 'overlook' an oncoming motorcycle if you're not looking for one.

**PULLING OUT** - Before pulling out from a parked position, CHECK TWICE by turning your head and LOOKING for oncoming motorcycles. Motorcycles need more room and space to stop suddenly than a car or truck.

**CHANGING LANES** - Motorcycles can easily fit in the blind spots of your mirrors. Put your blinker on and CHECK TWICE, turn your head to LOOK to ensure there is no motorcycle in your blind spot!

**SHARING A LANE** - Don't share a traffic lane with a motorcycle. Even though a motorcycle is smaller than a car or truck, they are entitled to their entire lane.

**DON'T FOLLOW TOO CLOSE** behind a motorcycle - a motorcycle needs more room than a car or truck to stop. Keep a good distance behind a motorcycle, leaving enough room for you to stop.

*Help reduce accidents and injuries . . .*

## **CHECK TWICE - SAVE A LIFE MOTORCYCLES ARE EVERYWHERE!!!**

**DON'T TEXT WHILE DRIVING**

Leavitt Group Midwest

### **Hit the Road**

*Find freedom on two wheels!*



**PROGRESSIVE**



**(614) 545-1665**

# **SHARE THE ROAD**



**with**  
**Motorcycles!**

**Looking Twice  
Can Save a Life.**



**1)**... To initiate , endorse and sponsor educational programs such as rider safety, public awareness, legislative and affirmative action and, individual freedoms and rights.

**2)**... To create and promote a positive public image of motorcyclists and motorcycle groups and to dispel and disprove media hype, unfounded propaganda and the "Hollywood" image.

**3)**... To encourage goodwill and mutual understanding among motorcyclists, law enforcement personnel and the general public.

**4)**... To serve as an information source on matters pertaining to current laws, pending legislation, personal rights, political inclinations of elected officials and their constituents, and voter awareness.

**5)**... To act as a central responsive agency to devise and coordinate recreational, legislative, educational, and charitable activities



**SUPPORT YOUR MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS**



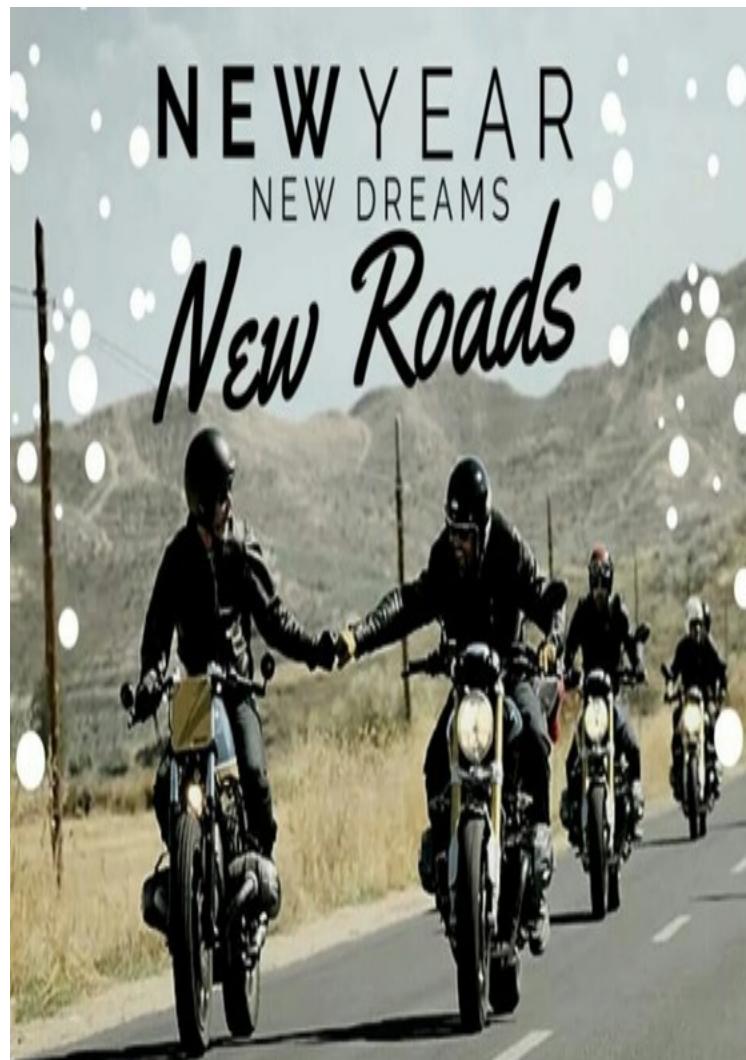
**MEMBERS PLEASE SUBMIT**

Articles..Pictures..District Information

Pictures.. Run / Party / Shows

This is YOUR publication.

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# JANUARY



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