

ABATE OHIO

AMERICAN BIKERS AIMED TOWARDS EDUCATION



OutSpokin'

JULY
2026

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"IT DOES NOT MATTER
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.

NOTICE

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ABATE of OHIO

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

1-800-25-BIKER

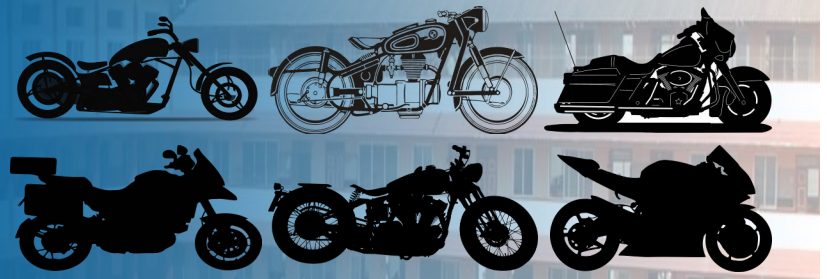
ABATE of OHIO encourages all members to submit letters, articles or cartoons they feel may be of interest to fellow members. ABATE of OHIO supports the rights of ALL motorcyclists, ABATE of OHIO does not endorse any products or services other than its own.

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 it's members.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Kolman Fuzy



Greetings, ALL ABATE members:

Time continues to speed on by. It seems that the older you get, the faster it passes. Regardless, things need to be attended to and reported on.

Starting with the MRF'S Bikers Inside the Beltway event. I rode to Washington DC in sunny but cool conditions in shirtsleeves and vest. Meeting up with Ed and a group from the Vanguard Patriots, who were all first timers, we lobbied the entire Ohio delegation of Legislators in support of motorcycle issues. Since we had more than just Ed and myself, we were able to divide the workload, making it much easier. With the rest of the participants in the event, all 535 Legislators were covered on that Tuesday. Once again, a rewarding and successful endeavor. Heading back to Ohio, I encountered rain as soon as I reached Maryland, which continued off and on all the way back home. Just to make the trip more stressful, my navigation and screen decided to crap out on me. I was able to find my way home without it, arriving later than I anticipated and soaked to the bone. Still, a great experience.

On the Legislative front, Bob Davis of the AMA and I testified in front of the House Transportation Committee in support of **HB 776, the Lane Filtering Bill**. This was the second hearing on the bill, which is moving quite rapidly. On June 9th., the third hearing was held, which was for opponent testimony, of which there was none. More information to follow as it develops. As far as **HB 357**, we are still pushing to get it on the agenda, to my knowledge at this time.

Various bike nights have started around the state, these are golden opportunities to possibly set up info tables to spread our message and promote visibility for the organization. Or at least to wear your ABATE gear and be seen and heard.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our presence at Ohio Bike Week, and to thank those who helped man the trailer and bike ticket sales. Brian, Carrie, Red, Kay, Tim and Clare, thank you so much. Special thanks to Brian who hauled both the raffle bike and the trailer to OBW and who worked every day. Above and beyond, bro, much appreciated!!

Congrats to Ed for being recognized with the NCOC Lifetime Achievement Award, and thanks for all you have done and continue to do for the movement.

Please support the Foundation Bike Raffle and the ABATE 52 week gun raffle.

I'm sure there is something I have forgotten to include in this article, if so, next time.

Kolman Fuzy

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614.332.0198 (cell)



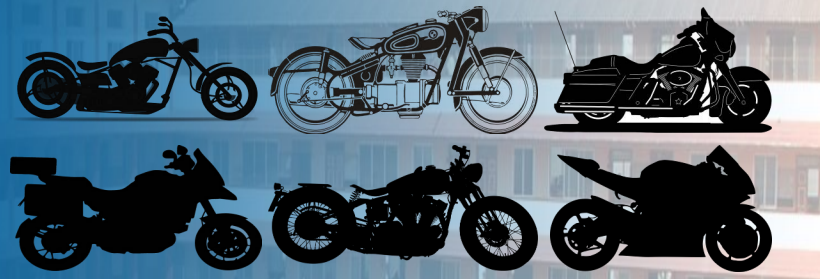
REP MIKE CAREY AND THE WHOLE CREW FROM OHIO.



HERE IS A PICTURE OF
REP. DAVID TAYLOR AND MYSELF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ed Schetter



I want to start by wishing everyone a great 4th of July and say Happy 250th Birthday to this great country of ours. I like the stuff that goes BOOM almost as much as riding my bike. Exercise just as much caution as riding. Just like motorcycles, a lot of trips to the emergency room from things that go BOOM start with "Hey, watch this!!!"

What a busy last month or so. I want to take a minute and thank Brian Jordan and the crew that kept track of the raffle bike and product trailer at Ohio Bike Week this year. That was a lot of time at Barrel House. A job well done.

I want to concentrate on **Biker's Inside the Beltway** for a few minutes. ABATE of Ohio was there along with the Ohio COC and new NCOC NW Ohio were all present. This is the first time I can say that a unified Ohio was there.

Ohio, as well as bikers from over 30 other states hit the hill to make sure all 535 offices were covered. It is quite a sight to see when hundreds of bikers are walking the Halls of Congress.

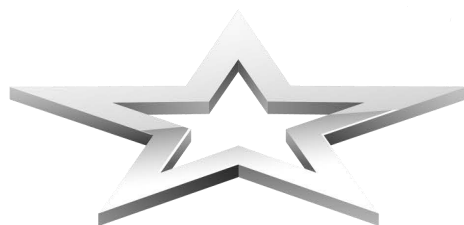
This was a particularly important visit to DC. The highway bill is being drafted. This only happens every 5 years. If we can get our issues added to it, it speeds up the process of getting them passed.

We had victories on just about every issue we were lobbying for. Amendments in the Highway Bill we asked for were sponsored from both sides of the aisle. About the only thing we didn't get handled was Definition of a Motorcycle. And we are still working on that one. Now is time to keep a vigilant watch. Because even though we had victories, until it has passed both the House and Senate and been signed into law, It could change. A busy but most enjoyable month.

Ed Schetter

Proud & Grateful Executive Director
ABATE of Ohio Inc.

Happy
4th of July



Editor's NOTE

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this month's magazine. It's hard sometimes to come up with content that is fresh and what we think that someone wants to read about. One thing that is relevant is the number of members that we have throughout the state. I'd like to get that from Chris our State Membership Director and

compare that to the number of members who actually read these well written articles. We welcome YOUR articles, even if they're not related to motorcycles. Got a story that you think needs shared? Well, come on... bring it on!

And another thing... read ASK OUR LAWYER. There is a ton of info in it, and I've probably said that before, but I'm saying it again! And you may have noticed a new look to the front covers. You too, can be considered for the spotlight moment, just send me the coolest pic of your bike. Terry from Region 10 is now a celebrity. Not sayin' you have to pay for his autograph or anything... yet ☐.

Donna Sam

Call or text 330.540.6210
donnasam@zoominternet.net

OHIO ABATE MEMBERS

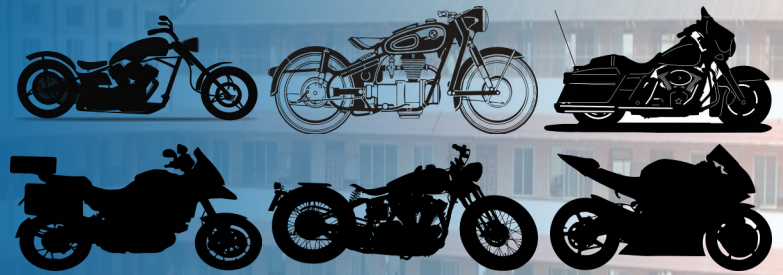


MEMBERS PLEASE SUBMIT

Articles..Pictures..District Information
Pictures.. Run / Party / Shows
This is YOUR publication.

donnasam@zoominternet.net

LEGISLATIVE NEWS



We are beginning the last half of the last year of the 136th General Assembly in Ohio. We still have not had a hearing on H.B. 357 and therefore Sub H.B. 357. According to the sponsor of our bill, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee has an issue with another representative who has shown support for our bill, and because of that our bill is just hanging in limbo. How much are we paying these people to go to Columbus so they can act like spoiled elementary school children? **Obviously, it is way too much.**

All I can tell you is to keep writing to all the members of the Judiciary Committee, especially the committee chairman, requesting a hearing on HB 357. They do have to have a hearing on it at some time. Elsewhere in this magazine you will find a complete explanation of HB 357/Sub HB357, an example of the email I sent several times, and a complete listing of every member of the judiciary committee members with all their contact information.

Don't wait. Write them soon and write them often. Make them do their job and earn their money.

As you have probably read elsewhere in this magazine/newsletter one bill that has had some movement is HB 776, the Lane Filtering bill. Ohio is also looking at a lane filtering bill. This is not an ABATE sponsored action, but it is one that ABATE decided to support, since it is motorcycle related and has been a topic that was tabled by the state board. The AMA has taken the lead with pushing this bill and our Chairman of the Board has provided proponent testimony for it.

As a reminder, Lane filtering is meant to make certain traffic situations less risky for motorcycle riders. It is officially defined as the practice of a motorcyclist moving between lanes of stopped or slow-moving vehicles traveling in the same direction at low speeds.

Be careful out there. Watch out for all the ignorant drivers out there and for the four legged critters lurking near the edge of the road. Just a week ago I hit a deer and was extremely lucky to not put the bike down. The deer was not so lucky. So be careful and stay alert.

Lion Man

FREEDOM RALLY

#30

ABATE of OHIO, INC.



Region 8



LOCAL CHARITY RECIPIENTS

HOGS HELPING HEROS

SAM CENTER

VFW POST 445 FOOD BANK



JULY 10th, 11th, 12th 2026

GATE OPENS 12:00 PM FRIDAY

CARROLL CO. VETERANS PARK/ 2038 BRENNER RD. CARROLLTON, OHIO 44615



PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL VETERANS CHARITIES & YOUR MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS

LIVE BANDS ALL WEEKEND

PRIMITIVE CAMPING

\$30.00 WEEKEND PASS

INCLUDES 2 NIGHTS CAMPING

\$15.00 DAY PASS

INCLUDES 1 NIGHT CAMPING

FOOD/ VENDORS

FRIDAY

VETERANS VIGIL 8:15 PM

SATURDAY

FREEDOM RUN 9:00 AM

BIKE RODEO 11:30 AM

BIKE SHOW 2:00 PM

TATTOO CONTEST 8:00 PM



FRIDAY 5 PM



SATURDAY 5 PM



FRIDAY 10 PM



SATURDAY 10 PM

PUBLIC WELCOME !!!!

NO PETS/ NO FIREWORKS/ NO FIREARMS/ NO BOTTLES/ NO HASSLES/ NO ATTITUDES

ANY MRO MEMBER CAN PRE-REGISTER FOR A \$20.00 WEEKEND PASS UNTIL JUNE 14, 2026

18 & OVER PHOTO ID REQUIRED-NO EXCEPTIONS/ WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ADMISSION TO ANYONE

CASH ONLY ATM ONSITE

CONTACT: freedomrallyregion8@gmail.com

Pre-Registration Passes & RV Reservations/ Tim 330-243-4273/ Vendors/ Kelly 330-327-3513

Golf Cart Reservations Contact Darren Tucker 330-417-7480

ABATE of Ohio Inc. is a "Not for Profit" Organization

All Donations are NOT TAX Deductible

ABATE of Ohio Inc. Events are subject to a 30% Administration Fee



www.abate.com

**LOOK TWICE
Save A Life!**



ABATE of Ohio Foundation





**Tiffin Eagles #402, American Legion
#73 and ABATE of Ohio Present:**

Christmas in July

TOY RUN 2026



To benefit Toys for Tots of Seneca County

Starting at:

American Legion #73
300 N. Main St.
Fostoria, OH 44830

July 25th 2026
Noon Ride Out
Sign In 10:00

Info: Ed 419-937-4341



Food and drink
at Ride Out:

Live Music By:



**This One's
For The Kids**

Poker Run then a
Party at:



Tiffin Eagles #402
68 Riverside Dr.
Tiffin, OH 44883

**\$10 OR \$5
AND A TOY**



ABATE of Ohio, Inc. is a 501(c)4 "not
for profit" organization. All funds are
not tax deductible





Paulozzi Alkire Condeni

PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS



INJURED WHILE RIDING? FREE CONSULTATION

The award-winning Ohio personal injury attorneys of Paulozzi, Alkire & Condeni have recovered Millions of Dollars in compensation, including a **24 Million Dollar wrongful death verdict**. We have taken over 350 cases to trial, and our reputation as skilled trial lawyers has resulted in significant, high-value motorcycle settlements.

**EXPERIENCED
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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 2 and ½ years we got a bill introduced into the Ohio House of Representatives, House Bill 357, that if passed, 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.

So, to be a part of the solution to this right of way violation issue, all you need to do is send some letters to House members. First, you need to write a letter to your state Representative and request that they sign on to be a co-signer of House Bill 357.

The second thing you need to do is write letters to every member of the House Judiciary Committee and request that this bill be heard in an expediate time frame. This is the committee the bill was assigned to. The committee chairperson must put the bill on the schedule to be heard. If the chairperson doesn't, then the bill dies in committee. With a large number of people asking for this to happen it is more likely to be heard.

ABATE of Ohio has active regions around the state, and we need every person in these regions to send letters or call your Ohio House of Representatives.

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.

Attached to this letter is a copy of a form letter that you can base your letter to the Representatives on. Also there is a copy of this area's House of Representative's names, mailing addresses and phone numbers.

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 to make this happen. All you have to do is realize this change needs to be made and you want it to happen.

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.

Letter for your Representative

Representative

As a motorcyclist and a constituent, I am asking you to cosponsor House Bill 357. This bill will increase the penalties for vehicular assault and vehicular manslaughter. There have been so many people making left turns in front of motorcyclists causing serious or fatal injuries and currently this offense is a minor misdemeanor.

I do understand that accidents happen and if there are no serious injuries or fatalities, there is the right of way violations infraction that will cover these types of incidents, (ORC 4511.42). But if a fatality occurs, or if a serious injury occurs (as defined in ORC 2901.01 5 a,b,c,d,e) then penalties should be more severe than a minor misdemeanor.

Motorcycle organizations have been instrumental in many ways, to educate motorists as well as motorcycle riders as to the safety aspects of sharing the road, but unfortunately people are in too much of a hurry to really look down the road for oncoming traffic, especially motorcyclists.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact William "Lion Man" Dodge, ABATE State Legislative Director at Abatelionman@gmail.com or 330-718-3066.

Thank you for your consideration,

Your name, address and (phone number optional).

For committee members use the same letter except change the first sentence to:

As a motorcyclist and a voting Ohio resident, I am asking you to hold hearings on House Bill 357 immediately.

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

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Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 466-803
Email: Rep49@Ohiohouse.gov

State Representative D. J. Swearingen Vice
Chair
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Rep89@Ohiohouse.gov

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minority member
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Rep21@Ohiohouse.gov

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Rep38@Ohiohouse.gov

State Representative Josh Williams
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State Representative Scott Oelslager
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Phone: (614) 752-2438
Rep48@Ohiohouse.gov

HAPPY

4TH OF

JULY





The most powerful weapon motorcyclists possess is not money.
It is not political influence. It is not a paid lobbyist.
It is an informed, engaged, and organized grassroots network.
For more than forty years, motorcyclists' rights victories have been won because ordinary riders decided to get involved. They attended hearings. They contacted legislators. They organized their fellow riders. They showed up when it mattered.

Every major success achieved by motorcyclists' rights activists started with individuals who understood that freedom requires participation.

Meeting of the Minds exists to strengthen that network.
It is where advocates share successful strategies. It is where new activists learn the skills needed to be effective. It is where riders from across the nation come together to prepare for the challenges ahead.
Knowledge matters. Organization matters. Action matters.
Meeting of the Minds helps build all three.

September 24-27, 2026 -- Meeting of the Minds -- Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Grassroots advocacy works because riders make it work.
MAC is Back! Jay Jackson is on the committee and they will be meeting in July!

In closing, be safe & educated!!!

Sherry Hill, Ohio MRF Rep
330-415-6272
shill.ohiomrf@gmail.com



I AM THE MRF



Kris Cook

Riding Since: 2008

MRF Member Since: 2012

Occupation: *Administration
Manager for Insurance
Agency*

Quote: *"I'd rather Be Here
Now."*

*Since 1987 the MRF has
been the only national
motorcyclists' rights
organization dedicated to
on-street riders with
full time representation
in Washington, D.C.!*

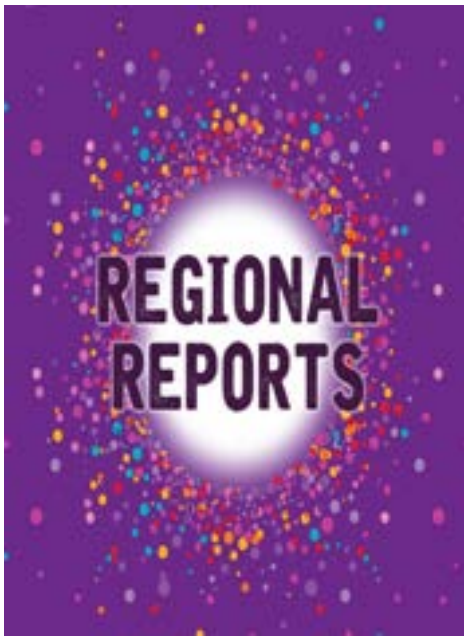
© 2025 Motorcycle Riders Foundation | www.mrf.org



Join



Support



Region 8... Sherry Hill - Director

Happy JULY from Region 8!

Happy 250th Birthday of Independence to our America the Beautiful. She is a beautiful country, and I don't think we appreciate that enough. So get out there and see our great Nation!

Speaking of appreciation – Thank you to ALL of you who attended our Look Twice Dice Run on May 16th. We had a great turnout and made a profit. Thanks to my committee as well for doing a great job.

Since we are now a Gold Star Group for our continued Highway cleanup along a stretch of Route 39 in Tuscarawas County, we met up for the first of the year on May 30th. We did not get a new group picture but

there is one picture in this magazine. Thank you to all who showed up and cleaned up!

My Events & Products officers are out in the region setting up at Bike Nights, pictures of Drunken Uncle in Mineral City should be in here somewhere.

June 7th brought our monthly meeting to John & Helen's in Kensington, Ohio. If you are out that way at Route 30 and Route 9, stop by, have a 1-pound burger and tell them thank you for supporting ABATE of Ohio Region 8! Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting.

Region 16 ... Kevin Ketchum... Events

Nice meeting!!! Cowboy called it at noon....A few of us were at the State Meeting on Saturday....nice ride out...The states regular business was done...E bikes were brought up....and the differences between them....Moped days all over again....The Seminar and Awareness rallies were discussed...Our Region still likes the winter get together. Still waiting on a few bills at the state level to pass...Lionman has been hard at it!!!! They hit some snags as usual....Our group says no to the life insurance that ABATE is offering...The web site is having a few issues also. Trying to get them straightened out...As far as our meeting...We broke even on the "Out of Hibernation" gathering. We did donate some money to the women's shelter...Thanks Dan for getting that done.....Better than losing money on our poker runs...Thanks to the Wooster Eagles for having us on their bike night!!!! I hope to be setting up our booth at more events this summer...We need to be seen!!!! Still talking about a get together in September for a covered bridge run...Not a poker run....Just a nice ride.....I brought up a Christmas raffle...Everybody is raffled out....Me too!!!! Ride Safe and Free!!!! KETCHAM



- 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





THE FUTURE OF MOTORCYCLING WILL BE DECIDED BY THOSE WHO SHOW UP

Every rider has an opinion about the future of motorcycling.
Fewer riders are willing to do something about it.

The reality is simple: **the future of motorcycling will not be decided by the millions of riders who stay home. It will be decided by the people who show up.**

- The people who attend hearings.
- The people who meet with lawmakers.
- The people who learn the issues.
- The people who build relationships.

The people who are willing to invest their time before the fight begins.

That is exactly what Meeting of the Minds is about.

For four days in Milwaukee, riders from across the country will gather to hear from experts, learn about emerging threats, discuss successful advocacy strategies, and prepare for the challenges ahead.

The next battle over profiling, internal combustion engines, autonomous vehicles, access, insurance, aftermarket modifications, or rider freedoms may already be taking shape.

When it arrives, will riders be prepared? Or will we once again depend on a small group of advocates to carry the entire load?

Every generation of riders inherits freedoms it did not create.

Every generation also inherits the responsibility to defend them.

The future of motorcycling is not going to decide itself.

September 24-27, 2026 -- Milwaukee, Wisconsin -- Meeting of the Minds Show Up.



NATIONAL NEWS



The Road To Freedom Runs Through Milwaukee

June 1, 2026

Two weeks ago, more than 200 motorcyclists roared into Washington, D.C., from every corner of this country. They put aside their daily lives to take the fight for motorcyclists' rights straight up Capitol Hill and into the offices of 535 members of Congress!

They didn't come to sightsee. They came to be heard. This was not about fancy dinners and photo-ops.

It was about the future of motorcycling.

It was about profiling.

It was about the right to repair and modify their motorcycles.

It was about bad fuel policy, reckless expansion of autonomous vehicles, and lawmakers who too often view bikers as expendable.

It was about bikers speaking and Congress hearing us loud and clear.

If you missed Bikers Inside the Beltway, don't make the mistake of missing what comes next. The fight is getting bigger. The stakes are getting higher. And the people sitting on the sidelines are not the ones shaping the future of motorcycling.

The MRF's 42nd Annual Meeting of the Minds is coming to Milwaukee, September 24-27, 2026, and this is your call to get in the saddle and become part of the movement.

Here are five reasons to stop watching and start participating. Here are five reasons to make your reservations now.

Ride for Your Rights: This isn't just another road trip – it's a declaration. Every mile to Milwaukee is a statement that bikers will not quietly surrender their freedoms, culture, or way of life.

Help Set the 2027 Legislative Priorities: Don't complain later about decisions made without you. Be in the room where the strategy is built and the battles are chosen.

Stand with the Largest Motorcyclists' Rights Movement in the Nation: Thousands of bikers. One united voice. Real grassroots muscle. This is how legislation gets stopped, changed, or passed.

Sixteen information-packed workshops: Get the tools to hit back, enhance your knowledge, and strengthen your SMRO. Stay ahead of the attacks on your right to ride.

Arm Yourself with Legal Knowledge: Rights ignored become rights lost. Learn from legal experts how to protect yourself, your motorcycle, and your SMRO from growing legal threats.

The sidelines are already crowded with people willing to complain but unwilling to act. Don't be one of them. When riders engage, nobody else will make the decisions for us.

Grab the bars, it's KSU and time to head into Milwaukee, ready to fight for the future of motorcycling.

Time is running out, lock in your room reservations. See you in Milwaukee.

Register for Meeting of the Minds 2026

<https://www.mrf.org/events>

Join The MRF

<https://www.mrf.org/join-the-mrf>

Major Victories For Motorcyclists On Capitol Hill

May 22, 2026

This past Tuesday, hundreds of motorcyclists from around the country converged on Washington, D.C. for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation's (MRF) annual Bikers Inside the Beltway grassroots lobby event. During this event, motorcyclists visit every legislative office with a packet of information on priority issues. This year, Bikers Inside the Beltway occurred just as committees were meeting to finalize the surface transportation reauthorization bill, which happens every five (5) years. This unusual juxtaposition created opportunities for significant input on the upcoming bill.

The MRF now applauds both the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee for advancing H.R. 8870, the BUILD America 250 Act (the highway bill), with measures supporting motorcyclists. The finalized bill will likely contain four of the MRF's top legislative priorities for America's motorcyclists when voted on by the full House of Representatives.

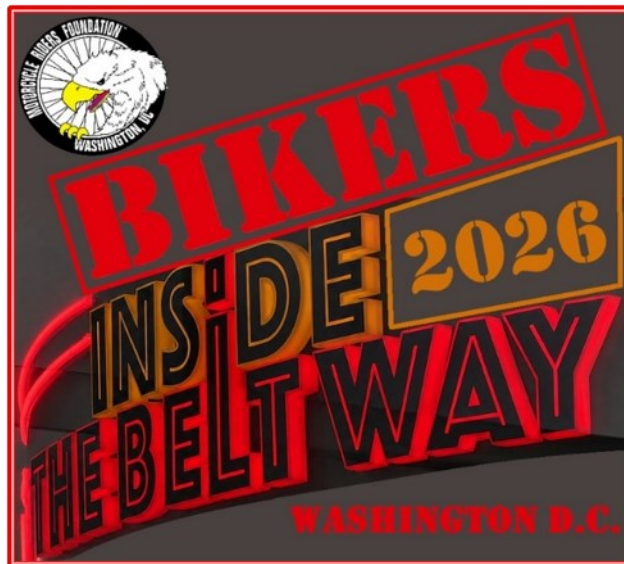
The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee advanced provisions extending authorization for the Motorcyclist Advisory Council (MAC), ensuring riders continue to have a formal voice in federal transportation discussions. The legislation also strengthens protections against motorcycle profiling by expanding existing language. It prohibits profiling based on the appearance, mode of transportation or attire commonly associated with motorcycling culture. Special thanks to Representative Andre Carson of Indiana and Representative Chris Pappas of New Hampshire for their last-minute efforts to ensure these victories.

In addition, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over portions of the highway bill, included several motorcycle-related priorities supported by the MRF. Among those provisions are enhanced protections for the Right to Repair, language ensuring emergency braking technologies can detect motorcycles, and the inclusion of the Know Before You Drive Act (H.R. 7377), which helps ensure consumers are informed about what their vehicle's automation technologies can and cannot do before purchasing a vehicle.

The MRF recognizes the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) for its efforts in support of these measures, particularly the input of Zach Farmer. Additionally, the support of the Independent Motorcycle Aftermarket (IMA), whose leader, Bob Kay, remains an outspoken advocate on the Right to Repair and Right to Modify, helping protect riders' ability to access repair information, replacement parts, and independent service options.

The MRF also gratefully acknowledges the ongoing efforts of state motorcyclist rights organizations nationwide, as well as the National Council of Clubs (NCOG), the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), the National Council of Informed Riders (COIR), and independent riders everywhere, for their engagement and advocacy efforts on these issues.

"Without riders contacting lawmakers, attending meetings, and remaining engaged in the legislative process, these victories would not have been possible," said MRF President Kirk "Hardtail" Willard. "This is the first step. It is a big step, but the work is not finished. The full House of Representatives must still pass this legislation, and the United States Senate must retain these protections and priorities for bikers in its version of a highway bill, before it can ultimately be signed into law by the President."





NATIONAL NEWS

The Most Powerful Weapon We Have

The most powerful weapon motorcyclists possess is not money.

It is not political influence. It is not a paid lobbyist.

It is an informed, engaged, and organized grassroots network.

For more than forty years, motorcyclists' rights victories have been won because ordinary riders decided to get involved. They attended hearings. They contacted legislators. They organized their fellow riders. They showed up when it mattered.

Every major success achieved by motorcyclists' rights activists started with individuals who understood that freedom requires participation.

Meeting of the Minds exists to strengthen that network.

It is where advocates share successful strategies. It is where new activists learn the skills needed to be effective. It is where riders from across the nation come together to prepare for the challenges ahead.

Knowledge matters.
Organization matters.
Action matters.

Meeting of the Minds helps build all three.

September 24-27, 2026 -- Meeting of the Minds -- Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Grassroots advocacy works because riders make it work

Register: MRF PO Box 9090 Peoria, IL 61612 202-546-0983

PRE-REGISTRATION (Until 9/4/26):

Members: \$100 | Non-Members: \$120

REGISTRATION:

Members: \$110 | Non-Members: \$130

Registration Includes: All Workshops,

All Materials for Workshops and Saturday Banquet



Stand With The Motorcycle Riders Foundation

May 29, 2026

This May, hundreds of riders came to Washington, D.C., to stand up for motorcyclists' rights. They met with lawmakers, shared their stories, and made it clear that riders are organized and paying attention.

That momentum doesn't stop when the trip ends. The ongoing fight for rider rights continues year-round through the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF).

The MRF works on issues that directly impact every rider, from right-to-repair protections, preventing profiling, safety of autonomous vehicle technologies and fuel availability policies that shape how we ride and maintain our motorcycles.

We know everyone can't hop on a plane or make the ride to Washington, D.C., but there is a simple way to be part of the effort. Join the MRF!

Is \$35.00 too much to help protect motorcycling?

To support the work already happening on your behalf, click below to join. Already a member? Please share this and start a conversation with someone else who loves freedom and wants to help protect it!

Join The MRF

<https://www.mrf.org/join-the-mrf>

We Are The 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.

MOTORCYCLE RIDERS FOUNDATION 2026 Meeting of the Minds



JOIN US!

Topical Presentations
Sixteen Information-
Packed Workshops
Capitol Hill Updates
And much more!

SEPTEMBER 24-27, 2026

Milwaukee
WISCONSIN

• HOSTED BY ABATE OF WISCONSIN •

FIRSTTIME ATTENDEE DISCOUNT

First-time attendees,
between the ages
of 18-35, receive
a discount*

Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel

375 S Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005

Room reservations, call 262-364-1100 (use group code "MRF")

Rooms are \$129/day, plus taxes & fees. (Cut-off date: Sept. 4, 2026)

Pre-registration for conference through the MRF, PO Box 9090, Peoria, IL 61612

Pre-registration (must be received by Sept. 4, 2026): \$100.00 (current member) / \$120.00 (non-member)

Registration rate after Sept. 4, 2026: \$110.00 (current member) / \$130.00 (non-member)

Registration includes all workshops, workshop materials, and Saturday banquet.

Registration questions call the MRF at 202-546-0983, or email Fred Harrell at fred@mrf.org.

**See registration form for details.*



www.mrf.org



www.mrf.org

REV 12/2025

RIDE WITH THE LEADERS!

Thousands of motorcyclists' rights activists have attended MRF sponsored annual regional and national workshops since 1985. These workshops provide the nuts and bolts, "user friendly" subjects and training to assist motorcyclists in defending, building, and strengthening their grassroots organizations.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation is proud to present their annual conference for politically motivated motorcyclists! Spend the weekend with some of motorcycling's most educated and dedicated activists. Learn what issues will impact bikers today and in the future!

Use the applications below to join and support the Motorcycle Riders Foundation and to pre-register for the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Minds, September 24-27, 2026.

MRF MEETING OF THE MINDS 2026 PRE-REGISTRATION

(Must be received by September 4, 2026 to qualify for discounted rate)

PRE-REGISTRATION RATE (before Sept. 4) ☐ \$100 Current individual MRF member (before Sept. 4) ☐ \$120 Non-MRF member (before Sept. 4)
☐ \$75 First time attendees (ages 18-35 yrs) (before Sept. 4)

REGISTRATION RATE (after Sept. 4): ☐ \$110 Current individual MRF member (after Sept. 4) ☐ \$130 Non-MRF member (after Sept. 4)
☐ \$85 First time attendees (ages 18-35 yrs) (after Sept. 4)

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Send check or money order to: MRF, PO Box 9090, Peoria, IL 61612 before Sept. 4. After Sept. 4 registration fee increases \$10 per person.
For room reservations call 262-364-1100 (mention group code "MRF" for conference room rates)

ORDER YOUR MRF MEETING OF THE MINDS 2026 T-SHIRT NOW!

Order your MOTM 2026 t-shirts before September 4 to guarantee size, color & style.

SHORT SLEEVE: ☐ \$30 | CHOOSE COLOR ☐ Black ☐ Gray ☐ Red | **LONG SLEEVE:** ☐ \$35 | CHOOSE COLOR ☐ Black ☐ Gray ☐ Purple
SHIRT SIZE: ☐ SM Qty _____ ☐ MED Qty _____ ☐ LG Qty _____ ☐ XLG Qty _____ ☐ 2XL Qty _____ ☐ 3XL Qty _____ ☐ 4XL Qty _____

- ☐ Annual Individual Membership \$35
- ☐ Auto-Renewal Individual Membership \$35
- ☐ Annual Joint Membership \$60
- ☐ Auto-Renewal Joint Membership \$60
- ☐ Annual Sustaining Membership \$100
- ☐ Annual Independent Motorcycle Aftermarket Membership \$100

- ☐ 3-Year Individual Membership \$95
- ☐ 3-Year Joint Membership \$140
- ☐ Sustaining Membership Club \$100
- ☐ Auto-Renewal Sustaining Individual \$100
- ☐ Freedom Fighter Donation ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$ _____

Motorcycle Riders Foundation
PO Box 9090, Peoria, IL 61612



Phone 202.546.0983
www.mrf.org

mrfoffice@mrf.org

Join and Support Motorcycle Riders Foundation...

- ☐ New
- ☐ Renewal
- Referred by _____
- ☐ 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 Reports electronically (email)



Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Card Number _____ CVV _____
Expiration Date _____
Signature _____ Date _____



SAFETY EDUCATION

Hello from the Safety & Ed Director Desk,
Happy 4th of July to our Great Nation!

The term "look twice – save a life" just doesn't pertain to everyone else, it pertains to you too! You need to be just as vigilant as they are, slow down, don't drink and ride, take a safety course!

May 19th and 20th I attended the Safety Summit in Columbus at The Union OSU campus. It is put on by the Ohio Traffic Safety Office in conjunction with a lot of people. They do an impressive job, and it is great to talk to so many safety minded people. Ross Chastain was our opening keynote speaker, watermelons. Yes watermelons. Our closing speaker was a very tall guy out of Texas, and he told everyone all about the stuff you can buy at these smoke/vape shops that should be illegal but isn't. Everything in between was great as well. Pictures should be in here somewhere.

Motorcycle Ohio still has a lot of open classes across the state, have some fun and take one! If you complete it/pass remember Abate will reimburse you half of your tuition!

Life is like riding a motorcycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving forward.

Sherry Hill

Safety & Education State Director



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!



Stay protected on your ride,
contact us for a quote.

PROGRESSIVE



(614) 545-1665

AUGUST 7th - 16TH



2026



Ask Our Lawyer

by Rod Taylor - ABATE Legal Services

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT (OR EASTERN FRONT)?

Recently I had the pleasure of visiting with our gallant leader of the MRF in Columbus at the ABATE OF OHIO seminar. No one works harder, or smarter, or travels farther for the MRF than Kirk "Hardtail" Willard. He is truly the unsung hero of motorcyclists in this country, and probably worldwide. (And no one gets more miles out of a Harley engine either. He delights in daring his trusty iron steed to crap-out on him in the middle of nowhere, and it seems to work. And I only thought Kentuckians could do that.)

In our conversation, I brought up the subject of the State of the Union as far as we bikers are concerned. I suggested that I had not heard very much about pressing issues in Congress or of scary legislation being rolled about on Capitol Hill. I continued to probe "Hardtail" as to the hue and cry from those that want to "take care of us". With his intense focus, he cut me to the quick and posed the following, "do you have any idea as to how much work it takes to keep Washington D.C. and its collection of do-gooders quiet concerning proposed bills regarding motorcycle rights?" With that quick elegant question, he had made his point. I had become so hardened to expect one adverse motorcycle piece of legislation after another being proposed that I had lost track of the point. That we did not want any bills out there being kicked around that impacted us adversely - period. The moral of the story is, that because it is "Quiet on the Western Front", there is also no time to relax. "Quiet" is hard work. Thank you, Hardtail, and all the folks at the MRF for what you do.

In my many years on this earth, I have noticed that talented people get surrounded by talented people. And that does not happen by accident. Take Hardtail for example. One of his jobs for us at the MRF is to engage good people to do our bidding in DC, like Jay Jackson and Ryan Hubbard and many others. And that he does. Through a brilliant stroke of genius, he managed to engage the best ever lobbyist. They must be like a beagle in a forty-acre field when it comes to Capitol Hill. There is no bush in that part of the country that he (and they) has not sniffed or pissed on. Our rights would not be the same without them. As their and Paladin's card said, "Have gun will travel". And we members need to wire them \$\$\$\$, lots and lots of money. Before I met them, I thought I worked hard for motorcycle rights, but I am lazy by comparison.

DEAD MAN TALKING?

Q: My father just died, and as personal representative, I have been working on collecting all of the estate assets - death benefits, retirement accounts and the like. It turns out that my dad, who was divorced 10 years ago, had never changed the beneficiary of his retirement plan at work. Now, his ex-wife is going to get all his retirement benefits. Is there anything I can do? **ILLINOIS ABATE MEMBER.**

A: Probably not. Only the employee can make changes to the retirement plan (including death benefits, investment accounts and pensions), so once the employee passes away, there is no way to make changes to those designations. Further, if your father was covered under a type of plan called an ERISA plan (named after the federal law that regulates those plans) only a specific type of order can automatically change the beneficiary upon entry of the divorce order. If such an order was not entered and he took no steps to change the beneficiary, the retirement plan will pay the named beneficiary, even if it was obvious that your father did not want that to happen.

HOW CAN I HELP ESCORTED BIKE RUNS AND AVOID TROUBLE

Q: We have tried to get our police department to help us with escorts for our bike runs and as road guards, but they claim they are too busy and that we need to find off-duty officers who will volunteer. We haven't had any luck.

We inquired about us being able to take a course to train us to be certified road guards to take pressure off cops and free them for more important things. There is no class in New Mexico, but we were told if we establish a curriculum the state will help us establish a class.

My question: are there any other states that have such a class and if so, could you share information about your class with me? -Annette, NM

A: I am not aware of any state that allows for anyone other than law enforcement to escort a procession that can disregard traffic control. Even parades can get a little weird. Some states have a provision in their code that allows for funerals but are usually pretty specific with regard to who can conduct the escort. In some states, it is a felony to block traffic at an intersection to allow the ride to pass through.

What you have been told is pretty common across the country, especially in larger cities. Police departments used to conduct funeral escorts and they also used to help people that locked their keys in their car. Hardly any departments (maybe a few small towns) do either of these anymore. Most of the larger rides are forced to "hire" off-duty law enforcement to organize escorts. The going rate is about \$100 per officer (that's per intersection if they are blocked for any real length of time) and generally about \$500 for someone to perform administration (apply for permits and schedule the individual cops).

I suggest seeking legal counsel before having your members "play cop" either with, or without, any sort of training. If there is an "incident" and anyone other than recognized law enforcement is "in charge" the whole event or organization could be in for a lawsuit. I was part of an event that had an off-duty cop, out of his jurisdiction, on his own bike that was helping us out. After about 10 minutes at this particular intersection a car got tired of waiting, pulled around two other cars and drove into the intersection collecting three bikes in the process resulting in injury to several riders. All kinds of people got named in that lawsuit and it was indeed a learning experience.

Except for the biggest rides where we bite the bullet and pay as much as \$5000 - \$10000 for off-duty cops, we've taken to having destination rides where people travel in small groups (3-8) obeying traffic laws and just meet at the end rather than have one massive group.

Life sure was a lot easier in the old days. Good Luck.

Jay Jackson - Exec. Dir. of ABATE OF INDIANA submitted information for the above.

SEASONAL INSURANCE - USUALLY A FRAUD ON BIKERS

No biker worth his salt can resist a 70-degree day in January. But insurance companies, including those that say they are our friends, will sell us seasonal insurance on the guise of saving us money and doing us a favor. And sometimes they don't tell us. And who reads the fine print anyway? Usually, they knock off three month's worth of coverage, but only knock off one month of premium. By any definition, that is an insurance company rip off. Always run the numbers and keep them honest - that is IF you know you have seasonal coverage. Check your policy to be sure.

With every early spring, I cringe, anticipating a call like I received a while ago. A good ABATE member with a son heading to college took the insurance company bait on seasonal coverage to save a few bucks. You got it, it was a 70-degree day, and all he was going to do is go around the block. The little old lady with blue hair got him at 5 miles an hour—mashed his leg up against the primary cover. He is now missing a leg. Since he had no underinsurance coverage and the lady had minimal limits, he got \$25k for a leg - not good.

It takes a different kind of insurance company to offer seasonal coverage—and I think it is not our kind of insurance company. Well-meaning state legislators should disallow this type of insurance coverage. In a future article, I will try to obtain a list of insurance companies that allow this type of insurance coverage, and you can decide if they are your friend.

NO FEET AT A STOP? DID YOU RUN THE SIGN?

Q. I have been an ABATE member and rider for more than 20 years. Last week I was riding and came up to a stop sign. I was able to stop without putting my feet down. The local town cop saw me and arrested me for "running the stop sign." I thought all you had to do at a stop sign was stop. The cop laughed at me when I used that excuse. Should I fight this or let it go? P.S. I have a CDL license and this could affect my job. ABATE MEMBER.

A. FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT. You are a CDL holder, and you have no choice but to fight. Serious points will be assessed against your CDL license if you don't. (It has always stuck in my craw that the points are assessed against your CDL license when you were on your motorcycle - not your truck). The cop is just plain wrong, and needs educated. This case reminded us of one in Springfield where a bicyclist was ticketed by a cop for running a stop sign when the two-wheel operator failed to put his feet down at a stop sign. The cyclists argued with the cop that he merely balanced the bike at a full stop and then proceeded through the sign. The officer did not buy it nor did the judge, who could not believe that a cyclist can balance a bike at a full stop. The cyclist offered to demonstrate his ability to the court with the bike. To the judge's surprise, the balance was shown, and the case was ordered dismissed.



Many of us get very good at stopping with no feet. The slow ride at biker events allows most of us to practice this to perfection, but most cops are under the illusion that if you don't put your feet down you did not stop. There is a presumption against us that there is motion unless one foot is on the ground. **THAT IS NOT THE LAW.** Warning there may be a state out there somewhere that requires a biker to put a foot down at a stop. I am unaware of any such state. Usually there are two defenses to this type of allegation; 1. I had my foot down and the cop didn't see it, or the cop is not truthful (judges usually don't go for the last one) or 2. I don't have to put my foot down because I can balance the bike. **WARNING:** be

prepared to demo your balance skill to the court. **ADVICE:** if you are short on time, it is easier to put a foot down.

Rod Taylor

ABATE Legal Services

WENT TO AN
ANTIQUE AUCTION

5 PEOPLE
BID ON ME

© 2026 SignPuns LLC



**TAILGATING A
MOTORCYCLE
IS NEVER OK.**



Department of
Transportation

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-Profilng 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-Profilng 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



THE ONLY NATIONAL
MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO ON-STREET RIDERS



This just scratches the surface!
For more MRF history, visit MRF.org



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

- ☐ Individual Auto-Renewal Membership \$35
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- ☐ 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

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PO Box 9090, Peoria, IL 61612



Phone: 202.546.0983
www.mrf.org

mrfoffice@mrf.org

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

- ☐ New
- ☐ Renewal

Referred by **ABATE of OHIO**

- ☐ 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)



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