



# SEASONS GREETINGS



The main purpose of this organization is to guard the rights of all motorcyclists; to keep them informed of laws that will help or hinder them as motorcyclists; to promote safety, rider education, brotherhood, and freedom for all motorcyclists.



## Publication Information

Send all submissions for publication,  
along with any necessary payment to:

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**Publication Deadline:** is the 5th of the month  
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## Notes From Katherine

A very sincere, heart-felt Greeting to all!!

I'm not gonna lie, I'm stuck! What do I report on? What do I write about? While you are reading this "now", it is actually the day before Elections, so I cannot report our "new" players for this upcoming Session, though I do plan to have an updated spreadsheet on our website once the results are in. Our Nov. CC meeting has not occurred, so nothing "new" to write about, such as our latest and greatest agenda I am very hopeful will be formed at this meeting. What I can do is give a surmise of what this organization has accomplished TOGETHER, as a polite reminder of how powerful we truly are...once we put our minds TOGETHER. And if I may be so bold, I would like to ask of ALL members: what have I forgotten that you find as a successful accomplishment & what more can WE do TOGETHER to assure the safety of our lifestyle? Below is a list of accomplishments FORR has attained; I use this word lightly, as we all know just because we get "it" passed or killed, we truly never see the end of "it". I think this is why I, personally, hold our mission statement so true to heart, and I make a personal vow to follow our vision as accurately as possible: "...to guard the rights of all motorcyclists; to keep them informed of laws that will help or hinder them as motorcyclists; to promote safety, rider education, brotherhood, and freedom for all motorcyclists"

- Requiring Dept. of Transportation to create uniform yellow light intervals

- Exempt military soldiers who have taken military riding course w/ successful completion roadway skills portion of civil M-endorsement testing

- Put insurance companies on notice that we are watching what they are doing and NOT allowing them to base any form of fault for accident/injuries upon the type of vehicle being operated.

- Got a statewide rider education program established with funding

- In 1995 with the help of the MRF, AMA and many other SMROs, we were successful in repealing the federal helmet mandate - FORR lobbied in DC for the removal of this language from the federal highway bill

- "Dead Red" light bill

- Reduced penalties for failure to wear safety headgear to \$25 fine with no court costs

- Have successfully defeated mandatory rider education bills

- Have successfully defeated child ban on motorcycles

- Passed Right-of-Way Bill (Clutch's Law) and are now working on ways to put more teeth into the law

- Have established a positive working relationship with MODOT

- Have established with the help of MODOT an effective and positive motorcycle awareness campaign which includes the lighted highway signs

- Have successfully ejected several long term legislators from office who were not supportive of motorcycle rights issues

- Have successfully placed the helmet bill on the Governor's desk twice (yes this is an accomplishment even though the bill was vetoed)

- Helped to establish the motorcycle council which in turn got people working together and talking about motorcycle issues and how roadway design, maintenance, etc. affects motorcyclists.

- FORR has lobbied repeatedly at both the federal and state level(s) on such issues as maintaining 2010 funding for motorcycle safety/awareness programs (and NOT for Highway Patrol to "learn" how to recognize a DOT helmet), ensuring that federal helmet mandates stay out of the national highway bills, EPA issues, health care discrimination issues, road bans, right to repair and many other very important federal issues that greatly affect all motorcyclists in this state.

To re-iterate, anything I have missed out, please send to me, so I may put this on our list of accomplishments (perhaps remove it/them from our "to-do" list). It has been an honor to represent my fellow brothers and sisters in the legislative arena. NEVER doubt that a group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. To quote ol' Vince (again) (Vince Lombardi) "Individual commitment to a group effort-THIS is what makes a team work, a company work, a civilization work..." I would like to add when people honor each other, there is a trust established that

leads to synergy, interdependence, and deep respect. Both parties make decisions and choices based on what is right, what is best, and what is valued most highly. We need people in our lives with whom we can be as open as possible. To have real conversation with people may seem like such a simple, obvious suggestion, but it involves courage and risk.

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow. Have a joyous Thanksgiving with the ones you love

With much love and respect for YOU,

Katherine Fox—State Legislative Coordinator, FORR, Inc.  
legislative@forr.net; 800-448-FORR (3677); 573-348-8960

### Reminder

**There will be NO committee meetings in January.**

**Reason being the F.E.W. Seminar**

**If you have not sent in your registration form yet for the Seminar the deadline is December 15th.**

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# History of FORR

Its not quite time to leave 1985 in the dust and move forward as some very important things were started in 1985. Does anyone remember how the term MAY (Motorcycle Awareness and You) came about. Well remember a while back I talked about FORR sitting down with a bunch of other like minded individuals in Warrensburg to place out Operation 20/20. It was during this meeting that the MAY idea was discussed. In 1985 the campaign would be split between the months of April and May so the name MAY would not quite work as well as Operation 20/20. In 1986 however Operation 20/20 became MAY. A graphics artist started working on a design logo and came up with the "Eye". This logo was shown along with five other logos to non-motorcycle oriented people and they selected the eye design. The motorcycling community was well on its way to bringing motorcycle awareness issues to mainstream America. The MAY proclamation was being prepared for presentation to the Governor.

We also established mobile rider education units to enable us to have rider education courses in smaller communities that might not otherwise be able to have a program. We were also working hard to get instructors trained for the fledgling rider education program. However all this work to develop our rider education program came at a price. Our state safety coordinator, Tony Crowder had a very long report to give at the last CC meeting and was planning on hitting up the CC for a \$10,000 a year budget when mysteriously his voice just went out. The more he tried to holler the higher pitch the squeak got. Prior to that at the Motorcycle Awareness Roundtable in Warrensburg he had come down with an ear infection that lasted 3 whole weeks. After that a conclusion was reached that this job should be issued a warning: "Warning the Safety Coordinator has determined that legislation may be very hazardous to your health, and should definitely not be attempted by persons with heart problems or pregnant women." We'll have to see if future safety coordinators followed this warning.

Local 12, commonly known back then simply as "the lake local" was planning a pig roast in June somewhere on the lake. I can attest to some really good times and great memories during the Local 12 hog roasts down at the Linn Creek Campground. Of course there was lots of great smokey pig and all the fixings, plus some great times sitting around campfires drinking the beverage of your choice (might have been beer or maybe that was one of those special occasions where friends were passing around the Prestone jug). For those of you that are too young to know what the Prestone jug was all about well let's just say don't pour the contents of the jug into a styrofoam cup unless you are prepared to clean up a mess. But then that's another story for another time.

At the end of July, 1985 our state treasury had an ending balance of \$1,529.10 plus \$459.11 in our money market account. The state rider education program was basically broke. We had tried and failed to get a self funded rider education program in place because the state refused to allow us to specify where the funds went but instead required them to go into the general fund and no state agency wanted to accept responsibility for them. Concerns were being addressed by leaders within the organization about the direction the organization was going and the need to make sure we remembered and managed the organization as a business and not a social club. A suggestion was made by Wayne Curtin that we consider moving our Central Committee meetings to Jefferson City because our main purpose was motorcycle legislation and it would offer us the opportunity to invite legislators to our meeting so they could see first hand that we serious, professional and know what we are doing. It also would serve to keep us focused on our priorities.

FORR also this year sent a contingency to the first annual A.B.A.T.E. USA seminar on September 21 & 22. This seminar was called to order by the co-coordinator of Abate of Indiana Mike "Balls" Fargaugh. During this seminar the following issues were discussed: Public relations - need to address riders and non-riders, public service projects that benefit the community, remember that we need to attract riders of all brands. Financial stability - Discussed money making ideas, including state parties, grant money, off road racing events, raffles, bike shows and

swap meets. Membership problems - need to recruit new members, adequate communication through word of mouth and newsletters, membership participation, burn out and the need to reimburse expenses of those individuals who are working to make motorcycling a better sport. Membership communication - make contact information readily available to new members, keep legislative activities #1 priority, state officers should make effort to go to meetings and events and communicate with members, special alert newsletters. Newsletters - sell advertising, exchange information with other organizations, use computers to help get info out timely, A computer workshop was held along with a session by Rob Rasor of the AMA. Rob addressed the need for the various organizations to develop a network of communication with other rights organizations to share information. This was felt to be the most significant event involving motorcycle rights in the decade.

I would like to leave you this month with the following reminder from a document written a long time ago, I hope a few of you will recognize these words or at least will take the time to use the wonderful tool called a computer to find out where they come from.

That all political power is vested in and derived from the people; that all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole.

## LOCAL 1 - LEE'S SUMMIT

**Meetings: 3rd Saturday @ 5 p.m.**

**Morgans Restaurant, 101 W US Hwy 40, Odessa 64076**

**Contact: Melany 816-633-7710 or Dallas 816-690-4200**



Happy Holidays to all of you good lookin people! It's that time of year again where we come together and enjoy the warmth of brotherhood no matter the temperature outside. It is also time for positions of the 2013 year to be filled. At this time there have been no nominations, volunteers etc. Those (nominations etc.) should occur at our November meeting that as I write this have not happened. I am hoping to still be at this keyboard typing salutations to you and bringing info come the next year.

We are still holding our meetings at Morgan's in Odessa every third Saturday at 5. It seems to have worked really well and I'm hoping they will accommodate us through 2013 should we choose.

Our Legislative cook off will be next month, January 19th at the VFW Post 3976 in Sugar Creek. The fun starts at 6, ending at 10. I am hoping we can receive a turn out that will surpass last years! Bring your best crockpot recipe or just a ready to be filled tummy because this event is not just fun, it also benefits our bus trip to the Capitol. How does it get better than that?

At our last meeting we learned that Pres. Rick Long is going to be a grandpa again, so congratulations grandpa! I (at present) do not have my pretty little files with me; so I would just like to wish all of our December birthday boys and girls the best of birthdays! May you get everything you wish for. Until next time..

Much love and respect,  
Melany Toothpick



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**LOCAL 5 - SOUTH KANSAS CITY****Meetings: 3rd Saturday @ 2 p.m.****VFW Post 1829 at 5904 Crystal in KCMO.****Contact: 816-454-9470 or the VFW Post 816-921-2222**

Congratulations to Local 5's very own Amy Allmon for being awarded this years "Misfit" award at Octoberfest 2012 by District Four! Amy a big thank-you comes from all of your home Local 5 members for all your hard work over the years too! EVERYONE who is nominated for this is a winner in my book because all of you have worked hard for your locals, our District, and FORR our entire organization! We had a good time at Octoberfest even though it was COLD. The hard-core were there as always and a good time was had by all. L-5 had a good turn out and I want to thank everyone who brought food for our Saturday night feast it was great. Firewood was cut and transported by Jake, Keith, and Dan to keep us warm as the L-5 BUG Juice flowed.

Hoss and Candy renewed their wedding vows with both family and friends on Saturday; CONGRATULATIONS you two! Hoss surprised his bride with her very own custom painted 3-wheeled bike after their 1 dos, and the celebration continued at our campsite. I think this year's Octoberfest went very well considering how cold it was and I want to thank everyone who made this happen and those who worked so hard to make it successful again this year! I look forward to this event every year because I see many of my old brothers & sisters there and can make new friends too, better living through Bug-Juice! Knobber & family did a fine job as usual on the drag and field events thank-you Brother for all your years of hard work. L-5 won the "Boot-Toss" this year and Hoss won a trophy too! I believe that this site has a lot of potential and will make Octoberfest the large event it once was again thanks to the involvement and interest of the owners, together we all can grow.

By the time you read this, the District Four Toy Ride will be over but, I would like to thank EVERYONE who brought the much needed toys and supplies for the Sunshine Center, we had about 30 bikes as well as two chase cars. I would like to personally thank Garry & Becky Thomas, Jan Kahill, and many other VFW Post 1829 members who have actively supported this run for years now. This is the second time my Wife and I had the honor to lead the Toy Run, thanks to all of this year's riders who made this another success! Remember that our VFW Post serves breakfast every Sunday from 8 AM to Noon, Bike Night Taco's every Wednesday starting at 5 PM, and has Ladies night every Friday night too! Until next time Ride safe, Angel

Happy birthday to Amy Allmon, December 1, Rebecca Sutton, December 6, Susan Cook December 24 and Dan Tarwater, December 27.

If you would like to meet our local go to: [forrlocal5@shutterfly.com](mailto:forrlocal5@shutterfly.com). It includes a calendar of coming events and photos of members and events. Steve Fifer is our webmaster and you can send him photos and event dates by e-mailing him: [harleyfif@Centurylink.com](mailto:harleyfif@Centurylink.com).

If you have any info to include or suggestions for the newsletter just drop me a line [aallmon@kc.rr.com](mailto:aallmon@kc.rr.com) or 816-536-1647.

Abide



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**LOCAL 6 - ST. JOSEPH****Meetings: 3rd Sunday @ 12:30 p.m.****VFW Post #1668 at 821 N. 4th Street****Contact: Jim Cross 816-646-9976 or****Dan Harmon 816-387-1095**

Howdy Folks,

Local 6 participated in the State Toy Run on Nov. 4th. We had 64 bikes which was a great turnout. We met at McBride's Yamaha and followed Santa in a sidecar to the Noyes Home for Children where we passed out gifts to all the children and gave \$100 cash donation for other needs. There was \$275.00 donated by members of Local 6 and a couple of local businesses. Little Caesar's donated pizza's for lunch along with chili dogs provided by the home. The weather was nice and sunny with temps in the low 60's. KQ2 television covered the event and it will appear on the local news. Dan Harmon and John Eidenshink were interviewed by the TV personal. Today there were 4 life members at the event and we appreciate those members support for all the years. We are always glad to see everyone else. John Eidenshink was our Santa this year. Dan Harmon has done it for all but 2 years in our 33 years of Toy Runs. 10 years ago Charlie Thomas filled in for Dan Harmon because Dan couldn't get in off the road in time and Charlie filled in at the last minute, but Dan did get there just as the group pulled into the children's home. Dan has been a big part of this since the beginning. Joyce Canfield has been Santa Claus's driver for 17 years and we thank Joyce for being our driver. After 17 years Joyce finally got a her license to be "Official Santa Claus Driver".

We had 2 members that were operated on within the last week. Jessie Trump and Teresa Keveson are both home and doing fine. Matt Shook and Kenny Justice were injured in two separate motorcycle accidents in the last of October. They were both rear ended. There were some broken bones and crashed arteries. Both are doing good on recovery. (Uncle) Larry Martin fell off of his motorcycle and broke his right ankle and right leg. He was a very nice guy and put his leg under his bike so the bike wouldn't get hurt. The bike is doing very well, better than Larry.

We had a lot of people who need to renew: Gyla Adamson, Charles Arrwood, Charles Barbano, Bob Bohart, Kenny Burks, Rose Gatton, Ron Gilbert, Robert Herring, Galen Jackson, Teresa Keveson, Ray Reynolds, Don Richarson, Patrick Shanks, Ira Skirlock, Angie Slagle, Tim Slagle, Rick Smith, Robert Speer, Tim Tague, Jason Vanderman,

Happy Trails, til we meet again

Ride safe

Dan

**LOCAL 7 - LEBANON****Meetings: 1st Sunday @ 4 p.m.****Shoney's, 1475 S Jefferson****Contact: 417-286-3845**

Greetings Local 7

Here we go again. Fall is a great time to ride in the Ozarks. Watermelon Ron did some riding in Arkansas, going to the Bikes, Blues, & BBQ in Fayetteville. He also rode with his Army buddy Bill who is from Texas to the Ralph Wayne Vintage Backyard Nationals Bike Show in Kansas City. Bill got a surprise when he & Ron got back to their bikes and found a show ribbon on his bike. Local 7 held our Scavenger Hunt Before our October meeting. Nita made a list of stuff for us to find. Everyone decided to ride together. Don figured if Nita made the list we could find some of the stuff at Robert & Nita home. So off we rode to the Ha Ha Tonka area. Sure enough we found some of the stuff on the list. Now I don't know if Robert knows everything he has on his land or if he just knows how his friends are but when we rode up to where Robert & Nita were waiting for everyone to turn in their findings. Robert immediately said you've been to my house when he saw the road-cone Don had strapped to his motorcycle. It was a good ride and a great time. Lee won 1st prize, Don 2nd, & Richard L. 3rd. All three donated their winnings

back which made Local 7's donation to the Hughes Senior Center \$340. Thanks goes out to Stanley for allowing us to use the Lebanon Suzuki-Kawasaki parking lot for our ride. The next weekend Jerry & I rode to the Licking Toy Run. Jerry & I have made this ride every year they've had it and this year the leaves were the most colorful I ever remember them being. Great weather got to ride 200 miles of beautiful country & got to help kids have a little better Christmas. It doesn't get any better than this. Well it's time to close, hope everyone's gets some riding in while the weather is good.

Take Care  
Geezer

## **LOCAL 8 - CHILLICOTHE**

**Meetings: 1st Sunday @ Noon. Carry-in Dinner, 1 p.m.**  
**(call for info - location varies)**  
**Contact: 660-646-4197 or 660-646-8905**

Greetings from Local 8:

Halloween is over and everyone is starting to gearing up for Christmas. What happened to Christmas season starting after Thanksgiving? Our Toy Run is over with a good turn out. We delivered a truck load of toys to the Salvation Army. A big thank you to the Trenton CMA. It is wonderful how you support FORR. Fool Moon is behind us. Poor turn out but those that attended made up for the rest. Sure glad Days Inn gave us rooms to raffle off. We are already looking at different ways to raise money next year. Times are tough for everyone.

A few of our members braved the cool weather and rode in the Missouri Days parade in Trenton. A good way to have our presence know.

We will put floats in the Christmas parades in Chillicothe and Carrollton this year. People like to see the bikes. Chillicothe is Nov. 17 and Carrollton is Nov. 23. Carrollton has a lighted parade at 6 pm. A great way to start the holidays.

We had nomination of officers at the last meeting. President - Pete and Gary; VP - Glenda; Secretary - Meredith and Marisa; Treasurer - Glenda; Legislative - Layne; CC rep. - Layne and Bob; R, Alternate District rep. - Meredith, Lori, Bob E; Safety - Karl; Product line - Diane; Road Captain - Pete, Ronnie, Matt; Sgt. Arms - Ron Singer, Jeff Clemens, Lori Brown and Michele King; Historian - Louise, Lori. Remember: IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE SOMETHING IS DONE. GET INVOLVED AND CHANGE IT.

New meeting place for the winter months is Royal Inn Pizza. They are not charging us for the use of the room so instead of having carry in food before the meetings I encourage everyone to eat there. They have other food besides pizza.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.  
Foxy Gama

## **LOCAL 10 - JEFFERSON CITY**

**Meetings: 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.**  
**Twin Bridges Bar & Grill, 3 Miles South of Jefferson City on Hwy 54 & Junction CC**  
**Contact: Bill Kempker 573-690-5281 or Denise Taylor 573-353-4127**

The annual "Toy Run" that was held Saturday, November 3rd turned out to be a "HUGE" success! There were 70+ bikes and with a total of \$2500 cash which was used to purchase (Toys, and a donation presented to the Samaritan Center)! Thanks bikers and everyone else that helped in making this such a memorable event! Also, when we got to the Marine Corps League in Apache Flats they were ready for us with a Chili cook-off... what a way to end a ride! Not to mention the weather was very cooperative, a little on the cool side but no rain or snow!

Our annual "Christmas Party/Pot luck Dinner" is scheduled for Saturday, December 15th at the North Jeff Cedar City room, from 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. This is the same place that it was held last year. I will send out something

in our local newsletter with more information.

Nominations will continue at our next meeting, voting for officers will be held at our December meeting which is also our Christmas Party.

For all of you Facebook people, keep checking Local 10's FB page and group page for upcoming events and just news in general.

LETS RIDE!!

Denise Taylor  
taylord34@embarqmail.com

## **LOCAL 11 - SOUTHWEST MISSOURI**

**Meetings: 4th Sunday @ 3 p.m.**  
**Carthage VFW, 16759 Inca Rd in Carthage**  
**Contact: 417-793-4899**

## **LOCAL 12 - GLASGOW**

**Meetings: First Sunday @ 3:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting place varies, call 660-631-7324 or email sstrodman@yahoo.com for more information**

Greetings again to all our friends out in FORR-land from your brothers and sisters in local 12. We are still getting in a few good riding days although the mornings are sometimes pretty chilly. Thank goodness we're not on the East Coast where that hurricane has raised havoc with millions of people. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them.

I have a correction to make from last month's newsletter. We donated \$200 to the Adcock family because one of them has been stricken with cancer. It was not due to a car accident as I reported last month.

We had a good meeting at Poodle's II Palms in Boonesboro in October. Pork Chop called the meeting to order with 11 members in attendance at 3:04. The minutes were read and approved with one correction. Neither Laura nor John was there so we had no reports from them. Tami had no event report. There was no district report.

Pork Chop thanked everyone who attended the meeting. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be at the II Palms in Boonesboro on Nov. 4th at 3 pm. The Christmas Party will be at Beckett's in Glasgow on Sat., Nov. 17th with cocktail hour beginning at 6 and dinner at 7 pm.

There was no old business. In new business we decided to have the Dec. 2nd meeting at the Mexico Lindo restaurant in Marshall at 3 pm. Smokey emphasized that it was important for members to read the Local 12 news in the Freedom Press to be aware of what's going on in the local, including the meeting places and times.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 pm. Doug Hammack's name was drawn for the attendance pot. He was not in attendance so it was rolled over until next month.

Upcoming events

Sunday, Dec. 2nd, 3 pm, L. 12 meeting- Mexico Lindo Restaurant.

Sunday, Jan. 6th, 2013, 3 pm, L. 12 meeting, place to be determined.

If you have news you would like to see in the newsletter, contact me at 660-631-7324 or e-mail me at sstrodman@yahoo.com or see me at the meeting. Until next month.....be free, Smokey



**LOCAL 13 - MEXICO****Meetings: 3rd Sunday @ 3 p.m.****Stacey's Place, Hwy 54, Mexico, MO****Contact: 573-881-7410 or 573-642-2345**

Hello 13

We just got through with the toy run, had a good turnout for as cold as it was. Got to see some new faces which is always good. I have to thank Marcia and Tom for setting up the whole thing they did a wonderful job, Stacy for the chili all the others that made it a good day. We turned in a lot of toys and food to the help center that should help out the community. At the Dec. meeting we will be electing new officers (remember you do not have to be there to get nominated but you do to refuse) and to plan for next year. Diana will not be able to be our secretary next year due to her new job (congratulations). Not all the other spots are filled so if you could spare some time come help out the local.

Our next meeting is Nov. 18th at Stacy's then Dec. 8th at the Moose Lodge, starting at 6 for the social then a short meeting and election then the gift exchange. Last year we had a great time sure hope you will show up and have a good time this year.

Breed

**LOCAL 14 - INDEPENDENCE****Meetings: 3rd Sunday @ 2 p.m.****VFW Post 3976 on Kentucky Rd. in Sugar Creek, Mo.****Contact: Joe Widmer 816-709-3618**

Good evening, Fellow Scooter Tramps,

Local 14's November and December meetings were held back to back today and the following is our interpretation of the business at hand.

November 4th, 2012 sees our local thriving and expanding its operations in many ways.

December 1st is our 20th annual Christmas Party and Auction. All proceeds go to our yearly adoptive families. At today's meeting, we chose our adoptive families and both are within our local. While the need for assistance is ever-present in ever-expanding circles, let us never forget that illness or loss can befall any of us, and we should always stand ready to help our own. Local 14 will take care of its family first, last, and always.

On Sunday, November 25, 2012, we are gathering trucks, trailers, dollies, and muscle masses to move all our auction items from storage to the VFW Post in Sugar Creek in preparation for the next Saturday's Christmas Auction. Further information can be had by calling a local officer or someone you know for details for that day. If you've already signed up, we will be in touch prior to the move.

We are accepting donations from bike shops and hair shops and bra shops and tattoo shops and any type of shop where you trade that you can ask for donations, which will be also be auctioned or sold at the Xmas party. We have received donations thus far from five local



**COME JOIN FORR® LOCAL 14 FOR OUR  
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BENEFIT AUCTION**

It's time once again for Local 14's Annual Benefit to raise money for the families we have adopted. We need everyone to look around and find good stuff for the auction. If you've never been to one of our auctions, then you're missing all the fun. So, gather your items together and come join in the fun.

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 1ST 2012****VFW POST 3976 SUGAR CREEK MO. DOORS OPEN 5:00PM - ????****Live Auction, Silent Auction, DOOR PRIZES FOOD &****DRINK WILL BE AVAILABLE.**

Side dishes are always welcome

Contact Joe Widmer - 816-709-3618 or Ron Kease - 816-898-4302



Proceeds from this event will be used to help less fortunate family members during the holiday season.



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vendors and are waiting on twice as many more. Hit up all those local places you shop for more donations. Take them a flier to show it's for real. All donating businesses will be acknowledged in the next issue. Thank you. Also bring any white elephant stuff you want to dispose of and we will auction it all that evening. Got any good stuff sitting around worth some money you want to donate to our adopted families? We're offering up a new vest and it seems like something else.

We are accepting pot luck dishes at the door as well so bring your favorite show-off dish to the party so we can brag on what a great cook you are. Food is free this evening and drinks are available. Hey, if you want to buy something at Just Cakes in Blue Springs or your local Casey's, pizza, chips and dips or tricks or treats, we will be happy to have it! We look forward to seeing Local 14's brother and sister locals from the area at our party.

Immediately after the first of the year is District 4's annual Legislative Fundraiser and Chili Cook-off on January 19, 2013 and it will be hosted by Local 14 at our VFW Post. Local 5 hosted for many years, however, 2012 saw such a great turnout that we outgrew their hall, so are moving to our meeting hall for 2013. Thank you, Local 5 - we will try to live up to your fine reputation for hosting a great event. This party always rocks out and helps us pursue our legislative endeavors such as trips to the Capitol to lobby the General Assembly, hospitality rooms, and other district legislative activities. Don't miss this one!

New officers for 2013 were nominated, accepted and voted on today. As follows:

|                       |                                                               |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman/president:   | Ron Keese                                                     |
| Vice Chair/President: | Kim "Crash" Harrison                                          |
| Secretary:            | Donna Dial-Hilburn                                            |
| Treasurer:            | Carol Harrison                                                |
| Central Committee:    | Smokin' Joe Widmer (Just say NO, Joe!)                        |
| Legislative:          | All of us. Rockin' Smoke the Vote, People!                    |
| Sergeant-at-Arms:     | Mike Basso                                                    |
| Newsletter:           | Dr. Tarr and the Scooter Tramp                                |
| Historian:            | Sherry Sales                                                  |
| District Officer:     | May Vary, TBD, We're spreadin' it around so we can play, too! |

We wish to thank our 2013 officers-elect and remind all members we are here to do your business, not the other way around. This is your local and we will do our best to further our fine reputation of being leaders in our motorcycling communities. Our new officers want to thank all past and present officers of Local 14. You humble us with your dedication and we hope to fill your shoes in some small way.

Come join us for our Christmas Party Auction, our Legislative Fundraiser and then Local 14's first meeting of 2013 on January 20th. See you at one or all. Selah.

Blessed Be,

Dr. Tarr and Scooter Tramp

And we say "No" to everything. Jim E. used to be the "No" guy, but he's retired now. We got your back, Buddy!

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## **LOCAL 15 - BRANSON**

**Meetings: 3rd Monday @ 7 p.m.**

**Location Varies**

**Contact: 417-334-0775**

Hey everyone,

Today, as I write this, it is 1 day before our Government Election. One more day of political ads on TV to drive my husband crazy. One more day to hear convincing, but probably empty promises. One more day before we get to use one of my favorite freedoms! Voting! But one other favorite freedom is Speech. Which I feel, we at FORR, use to urge the "non riders" of the world into understanding our mission. To make the road equally safe and fair for bikes and cages of all sizes! So I encourage you to tell the world what you think! Just remember they may tell you where to go!

Yesterday was the second of our 2 Toy rides. Although the weather man called for chilly air and rain sometime in the day, the air was warm from the sun and crisp from the breeze. We gave tons of coats and toys to families in our area, and enjoyed lots of biker love. Thank you to all the folks that came to our Stone Co. Toy Run and our Branson Toy Run! You make it a success. Thanks also to all the hands that help organize the events! You are greatly appreciated!!!!

Our Local will not have an organized meeting in Dec. No BS. No Business meeting. We will have our annual Christmas Party on Dec. 1st. It will be at the Welk Resort, on Gretna, just past the Fall Creek Resort to the right, in Branson. There will be music to dance the night away to. Food to fill our bellies and the drink will definitely flow! If you think you will drink and not want to drive or have a DD, consider staying at the resort. They are giving us rooms at a discounted rate for the night! Love that! But definitely arrange one of the two, because we want all our biker brothers and sisters to have a safe night!

We will start the year off on the right foot with our annual ride on New Year's Day. We will talk about where we are meeting for that ride, at our Nov. Business meeting later this month.

We are meeting again for our business meeting at Tequila's Mexican Restaurant. We are voting for officers and finalizing plans for the Christmas party. We also need to talk about future meeting places for our business meeting. Please plan on joining us!

Have a very nice Holiday Season, and respect everyone please! See you soon! Lou

## **LOCAL 16 - CAPE GIRARDEAU**

**Meetings: (Call for meeting info)**

**Contact: Whitey 573-768-2524 or Chico 573-382-0636**

**Email - forrlocal16@gmail.com**

This newsletter entry is going to be a little different than the previous ones I've submitted. You see I'm an editorial writer and to do the lighthearted articles has proven to be a challenge for me. For just this month I'm going to revert to what I do best.

November began with a challenge on Facebook to share what we all give thanks for on a daily basis. This Newsletter Writer has been caught up in some heavy drama and there were a few days that finding something to feel thankful for had to be pulled out of my soul with some difficulty. I have a bad habit of pulling into myself instead of reaching out. Strangely enough, November's Local meeting turned into one of those "air clearing" sessions that make what we do as Freedom Fighters all worthwhile.

The membership of Local 16 became a topic of conversation when the formal meeting was closed. I think it is safe to say we all had some pent up frustrations that were long overdue for discussion. In this case, we ended up with a new resolve and dedication to returning to the roots of what being a member of Freedom of Road Riders is all about.

It's no secret that the dissension within FORR as a whole is spilling over into every aspect of the workings of this organization. Organization, now there's a word that has had its definition stretched. Within an

organization you have multiple parts working together as a whole. In every group there is an estimated 2% that do all the work. When that 2% is constantly being called on it doesn't take long for burn out to set in. This is not a phenomenon exclusive of FORR. It is a phenomenon getting very hard to take. That is why the 2% of Local 16 has decided to pursue a membership base of quality, not quantity. It's time we tapped the possibilities of a new type of membership that is active, full of fresh ideas and not afraid to shoulder some of the burden of making Local 16 the type of Local envisioned by the original founders.

This being said, with our annual Christmas Dance coming up December 1, 2012 in Perryville, we are issuing a challenge to this membership to bring a guest. Our invitation is open to the other Locals in Missouri to join us in a show of solidarity. We're beginning this new push for participation before the season of New Year's resolutions. Big Ticket will be playing beginning at 8:00 pm at the VFW in Perryville. While my attitude may have improved, my directional skills have not. Please call Whitey, 573-768-2534 or Martin, 573-576-6662 for the details and directions. Our Local meeting will be held before the dance to allow us time to conclude business and make preparations for the party. This is always a great time and with the new ideas on the table, this year it should be an even bigger time of sharing brother and sisterhood.

Our annual Toy Run was held November 4. We had beautiful weather and an opportunity to meet some new riders. As always, Eagles #3775 made sure Local 16 and their guests had the best of everything. We send our deepest gratitude to them for the excellent food and beverages. Look for details for all upcoming events in future Newsletter entries. We have many new plans for annual events, beginning with the Broomstick Tournament and some surprises coming up for our other annual events. All in all, 2013 is already shaping up to be amazing.

For now, Martin and I wish our entire Local 16 family all the best during this holiday season.

Stay safe and get your game face on!

Melanie, yes still sometimes Madeline

## **LOCAL 19 - KIRKSVILLE**

**Meetings: First Saturday @ 6 pm**

**Action Cycle, North Hwy 63, Kirksville**

**Website: forr19.com**

**Contact: Pres. Herbert Treece 660-234-5607**

**\*Bring a chair**

Hey everyone,

Thanks to everyone who participated and donated food and toys, in the Local 19, 26th annual Toy Run, on Sunday, November 4. Approximately 65 bikes were in the ride, as well as others. It started a little cool, with light rain, and turned out to be a nice day for a ride.

Currently working on Auction plans for January 19, 2013. The auction will take place at the Shrine Club in Kirksville. Door open at 1700 and auction begins at 1800. Food will be available at the Shrine Club. Please bring items to be auctioned that night. Band and party to follow auction. Hope to see you all there.

Please bring any ideas or suggestions to the next meeting or contact Herb. Check out website for local updates and events.

Ride Safe

Peg

## **LOCAL 20 - DEXTER**

**Meetings: Last Sunday @ 1 p.m.**

**Eagles Club on Hwy 25**

**Contact: Robert Reif 573-421-7480**



**Christmas Dance**

Gun Giveaway  
Taurus Judge  
Revolver Rifle.

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Local 16

**Saturday, December 1, 2012**

Live Music at 8:00 pm provided by:

**"Big Ticket"**

VFW  
Perryville, MO

FORR® Meeting  
6:00 PM

More info call: Whitey 573-768-2534, Martin 573-576-6662

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**LOCAL 21 - ELDON****Meetings: 3rd Saturday @ 1 p.m.****Contact: Dan @ 573-898-2291****LOCAL 23 - LINCOLN COUNTY****Meetings: 3rd Sunday @ 11 a.m.****Main Street Cafe, 145 Main St, Old Monroe, MO 63369****Contact: 636-665-5004****LOCAL 24 - ST. LOUIS****Meetings: 3rd Tuesday @ 7 p.m.****VFW #3944, 10815 Midland Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63114****Contact: Bill "Treetop" Duncan 314-744-1092**

Another Year is coming to a close and let me first thank our local members for all they have done.

We have a lot to say this month so let's get started. Local 24's election results are as follows:

Pres: Treetop  
 Vice: Ken Lewis  
 Sec. Kathleen Duncan  
 Treas: Amanda Brown  
 CC/Leg: Treetop  
 SAA: William Yowell  
 AMA/MRF: Tip Tipton  
 Safety: Ratwinger Brown  
 Events: Ben Butler and Kerri Lewis  
 Web: James Hoffman  
 Newsletter: David Sidwell  
 Historian: Kerri Lewis

This is a fantastic fit for our local; congratulations to all!

For those who missed or didn't make it to the Mid South M.I.L.E., you missed a great and informative weekend. We had Treetop, Kathleen Duncan, Tip, Ken & Kerri Lewis, LT and myself. Folks, we have a lot of things we need to get in front of and we need more members to get proactive with participation and recruitment in 2013. All the things you hear coming are real and we have a lot to do people!

Our Christmas Party will be December 18. We are asking that everyone bring some kind of dish, I will be making my lasagna, live music from brother Rob Britt's band Doubtwhistle and it's going to be a hell of a night. Also, bring a wrapped gift( guys bring a guy gift girls bring a girl gift) if you would like to take part in "Rob your neighbor"

Now a personal note; Our local has 120+ members in it and in the past year, I have been to all but one meeting and what I have noticed is that about one-third of our members attend the meetings and it is always the same members. That is very disappointing folks. I understand that things happen but every month really? Every month you can't make it in? I don't care if you have personal issues with other members, get over it. We are not here as a social club and we are not bar buddies. We are an MRO, let's be adults and fight for our rights.

Please join us on Dec. 18th for the last meeting of 2012 And OUR Christmas party!

"Big Sid"

**LOCAL 25 - ST. PETERS****Meetings: 3rd Sunday @ 1 p.m.****American Legion Post 313, 200 Main St., Olde Town at 4-way stop in St. Peters, Mo. Contact: 636-387-2394**

Hello Everyone,

**Sat. December 8th** we will be going to **Shriner's Hospital** to drop off toys. We will be meeting at Hobo's @ 1 pm.

**Sat. December 8th** will also be our **Christmas Party** at Hobo's. We will be eating from 6 pm - 8 pm and if you are a current Local 25 member your meal will be paid for by the local. If you are not sure if your membership is current, please check with Girlfriend.

We will also be having a gift exchange so if you want to get in on it be sure to bring a gift (\$5 to \$10)

**Tues. January 1st (New Years Day)** will be our **"Social Freeze-Out or Not Ride"** we will be meeting at Hobo's @ 1 pm.

**Meeting** there will be no meeting in the month of December due to the holidays.

**Have a Very Merry Christmas & A Joyous New Year !!!**

And As Always Remember.... **Leather UP & Rubber DOWN !!!!**  
 Rascal

**LOCAL 26 - MARYVILLE****Meetings: 3rd Tuesday @ 7 p.m.****(Call for info location varies)****Contact: 660-582-4599**

Freedom of Road Riders, Local 26 of Maryville held their annual Toys 4 Tots run, Sunday, November 4th. The motorcycle rights organization donated a lot of toys and \$340 to Ann Martin, TCW representative for Toys 4 Tots. \$142 was donated to the local Ministry Center for the Food Pantry. The Local 26 event in Maryville is just one of several that are held state wide by the Freedom of Road Riders locals.



**LOCAL 27 - SAC-OSAGE****Meetings: 1st Saturday @ 2:00 pm****Knuckleheads Cantina, 201 S Main St, Fair Play, MO****Contact: Pres. Bill Thornhill 417-955-0941****V.P. Donnie Martin 417-876-5058**

I cant believe how fast this year has gone by. The time is here to take nominations for officers positions and appoint members to all the other important positions in our growing local. We had an important meeting in Oct. We discussed our meeting agenda at length. A vote was made to change our meetings. **We will now meet on the 1st Saturday of each**

**month in Fair Play at Knuckleheads Cantina at 2 pm.**

It was discussed to change the day time and meeting place because it is more convenient. Most of our members are closer to the Fair Play area therefore we have had more members at our meetings in Fair Play and most of those members were riding up to Roscoe for the meetings there.

For those of you who didn't make it to the Freakers Ball Halloween party at Knuckleheads, you sure missed out!!!! We had several Local 27 members present. There was A LOT of costumes, some original and some not so much. The costume contest was a blast! The winners were as follows, Pimp Daddy (Madd Dawg), NEXT (Big John), Bad Hair Day (Ma), Forest Gump (Rabbit), and Madusa (sorry I didn't catch her name). The Weenie Bite contest was won by Gizmo The Clown (A.K.A. Immanual). Most of us thought that was not only funny but also kind a weird, (good job Manny). 50/50 winner was William Greco, one of our newest members. Wild Bill asked him if he wanted to flip a coin for double or nothing, he excepted and won that as well! Congratulations William! On behalf of Local 27 and all who attended the Freakers Ball I would like to send out a BIG THANKS to Scott the D.J. He was great as always!

We are currently making plans for our annual after Christmas party, which will be in January and will be a blast as always, and our Annual Polar Bear ride on New Years Day. There will be a great New Years Eve party at Knuckleheads so come on out and enjoy yourselves, we sure will. Well its been a good year so far, We have had a great time recruiting new members and now we are up to 111, WOW!!!! Good job recruiters, keep up the good work.

Until next time ride safe Brothers and Sisters , Love Ya , Dawg

**LOCAL 28 - WAYNESVILLE****Meetings: 1st Friday @ 7 p.m.****Pulaski Shriners Club.****Contact: President 573-433-0047 - Vice President 573-433-0402 - Shrine Club 573-774-5454.**

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How was the goolen for everyone this Halloween???? To those that attended and help with the set-up/clean-up/a part of the spooks out at the Shrine this year, a great big Thank You to everyone in all that you did. We had some Military that came out along with others that helped set up along with a couple small spook houses this year. There were 6 tractors running and there was not a pause in all of them. Everyone had a great time and we raised \$1600.00 for the Shrines Children's Hospital this year. There was a motion (if you didn't attend meeting) to donate more from the local and this was voted on an passed.

We also had election of the new cabinet which will take over in January. Come to the next meeting to see who your cabinet will be! Allot of fun in store for everyone this year.

We had the last Roadside Clean up with 15 in attendance and was a great day as warm. The unusual item found and winner was a AC/DC hat by Mike Bennett! Yeah!!!! At the meeting in December, will be having a drawing of everyone that participated this year. If you attended 4 time, your name will be in the bucket 4 times, if 1 time then just one time. Not sure what is cooked up for the prize but I'm sure it will be unforgettable! LOL Thanks to everyone that helped this year as with us adopting this part of the road which sure helps with allot of our functions and the surrounding area being nice for those events.

We have some members being in the Hospital at the last meeting so speedy recovery and everyone sending thoughts/prayers your way! We had allot of Birthdays also, which Manda read off also along with those having Anniversary's. Best wishes to all!

With deer season approaching, be careful if out and about on your bikes. The deer have been running heavily with the cooler weather and rutting season. Just remember in morning 8-10:00 and evening 4-6:00 p.m. to watch out in riding an animals moving. Also the cagers that can't seem stay on their side of road.

The coming events are as listed:

Veterans Day Parade / Nov. 11 / Waynesville Middle School @ 12:30.

Danny will be lining everyone up

Toy Drive / Walmart/ St. Rbts @ 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Come out an help get the sleigh filled for the boys/girls in area that wouldn't have X-mas with help

Christmas Parade - Waynesville Middle School / announced in November meeting for time

Toy Drop @ Good Samaritan/ Dec. 8 @ 10:00 a.m.

December's Local Meeting is December 14th @ Shrine's

New Years Party - Dec. 31 @ Shrine

Everyone be safe with hunting, riding, traveling especially with the Holiday's fast approaching and see you all the meetings!



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**LOCAL 29 - NORTH KANSAS CITY****Meetings: 3rd Sunday @ 1 p.m.****VFW Post 4043, 1100 H Hwy, Liberty, MO****Contact: Ronda Felts 816-214-5096 or****Ken DeMoss 913-449-1533****Website: www.forrlocal29.com**

Its Local 29 howdy duty time:

First. Howdy: Happy birthday and Happy Anniversary to all those members that it pertains to.

If anyone is sick or injured. Well shit. GET WELL we need you.

Now its duty time. We need members and I MEAN members to step up to the plate. Us old timers are getting tired of running the show. Election time is coming up on us and new blood on the agenda. So next meeting instead of the same 20 people we need to see the 100 people that has signed up to be members. And by the way lunch will be potluck so bring food too.

We would like to put out a BIG THANK YOU to Steve and Janet Williams for a terrific basket for the MSM this year. It was awesome. A thank you goes out to the locals that donated at the CC too. Jim and Donna Duyck and L.A. Ross for helping decorating it. There was 235 people at the mile this year.

Don't forget to do your local toy run this year. Kiddo's are counting on us as Santa. Well done for this month. Later.

Skittles

Nancy

12303

**LOCAL 30 - NIXA****Meetings: 3rd Thursday @ 7 p.m.****Location varies****Contact: Mark 417-887-2923**

Hello All!!!

Hope everyone is enjoying the fall riding. May the weather cooperate and we have several more chances to ride before the end of the year. We met at David and Regina's for breakfast before the Victory Ride and were served a wonderful breakfast. Thank you both very much for a nice start to a good ride. Several went on the Branson Toy Run, the weather was good and there was a really good turn out. Hope we get that lucky on our toy run.

Our Christmas Party will be held at the Daily Pub on December 1, 2012 at 8:00 pm. The Daily Pub is located at 1906 E Meadowmere, in the strip mall located behind Cruisin 66 on Glenstone. Please bring an appetizer to share with fellow members. Make sure to check Local 30 facebook for any last minute changes to the Xmas party or any other event we have.

Leather and Lace plans are under way and it will be held in February at the Ramada Oasis.

December 1—Xmas party

December 2—Springfield Toy Run

January 1—New Years Day ride

January 17—Monthly meeting

See everyone soon. Ride safe.

Lisa

**LOCAL 31 - ROLLA****Meetings: Last Friday @ 7:00 p.m.****Shoney's, Martin Springs Drive, Rolla, MO****Contacts: Debra John 573-647-0129 or****Sabrena Shivers 573-201-1385**

Debra is our new president. Shawn is the Vice-President. Sabrena volunteered to fill in as Assistant Vice-President while Shawn is away on business. Walt is the newsletter editor.

We held our monthly meeting at Shoneys on the 26th of October. We had 8 members present. We discussed the need for more members.

There will not be a meeting in November.

The Christmas Party/meeting will be on December 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the Gravel Bar in Rolla.

Our regular meetings are held at Shoneys on the last Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Shoney's is located on Martin Springs Drive in Rolla.

We will be holding our elections in December

**Santa's Coming to Pulaski County**

**Freedom Of Road Riders® Local 28 are collecting Toys and non-perishable food items for the less fortunate of Pulaski County**

To help support the Toys for Kids Program and the Area Canned Food drive, Freedom Of Road Riders® Local 28 Waynesville will be collecting Toys during it's toy run on 4 November 2012, during it's Santa Comes To Wal-Mart drive on 27 November 2012, and the collection boxes that will be distributed throughout the county all November, to include the Shrine Club in Buckhorn. Our goal is to bring Christmas cheer to every child in Pulaski County. For other donations please call us.

For more info call Danny at 573-433-0702 or go to <http://www.local28forr.com/>

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**LOCAL 33 - HWY. 50 WEST****Meetings: 3rd Sunday, 1:00 p.m.****AM Vets on Hwy. 50, Just East of Knob Noster.****President - Doug Weiss 660-233-3949****Editor: Ed Carper 660-422-7353**

Here we are already starting November and Local 33 is still on the run. All of our giveaway tickets are gone and folks are clamoring for more. Sorry folks, but there ain't no more and, there ain't going to be no more.

November the 4th was our Christmas Toy Run to Windsor and even with the 20% chance of rain and chilly weather; it was still a great ride with lots of sunshine. We had a pretty fair turn out with 21 folks participating, but we would have loved to have had more toys and riders.

There was however one little mishap, if I may be so bold to call it that, when Roy Hoard showed up for the toy run on his awesome trike; it seems he forgot his jeans. There standing in front of the toy drop off point was Roy sporting his full leathers with these baby blue boxers with little chicks on them plain as day showing past his chaps. Several people mentioned it to him and he just acted as though it was a normal everyday occurrence. Either Roy hit his head worse than we thought **OR** this is his usual Sunday garb. But Local 33 did well and I'm sure we are going to make some kids pretty happy.

I need to back up here for just a second and mention the mid south mile. Roy Hoard, Bo Smith, Donna and I all attended the Mile and I have to hand it to the Mid-South Mile Committee it was a great time and most informative. If you have never been I recommend you go and learn a few things and have some fun. Folks, it was time well spent and worth the money we all spent.

**December**

**December 15th,** Meeting starts at 11:00 am. Very brief session, then off to buy presents and groceries for the adopt-a-family dinner.

**December 16th,** Adopt-A Family Dinner, Starts at 1:00 pm. It's Christmas man, so everyone is invited.

Well here's your last Granny story of 2012.

It seems that Granny was out riding in her car, shortly after leaving the hair salon, where she had her hair died and curled. A short time later she was heading south on 13 Hwy and spotted a flock of sheep. She thought they were so cute that she asked the sheep herder if she could guess the exact number of sheep he had in his flock, could she have one. The sheep herder said yes and Granny hit the exact number correctly. As she was loading her prize the sheep herder yelled, if I guess your true hair color can I have my sheep dog back?

Hi-Ho Silver

The ed-itor

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**LOCAL 35 - GOLDEN VALLEY****Meetings: 4th Saturday @ 3 p.m.****TT Hwy Campground****14655 Hwy TT, Warsaw, MO 65355****Contact: Bob Hawkins (Hm) 660-694-3589 or (Day) 660-885-5741**

Local 35 wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season! November proved to have a few nice days to get out and ride. This time of year we are all thankful for these rideable days!!!! We hope everyone got out and voted. Due to everyone being busy during the holidays our December meeting may fall on a different date, it will be decided at our November meeting. Please check with fellow members to see when it will be. We would love to have as many members attending as possible! So long to member Cliff Malone. He plans on being a long distance member (moving to AZ!) We will miss him. Best wishes to Cliff and we hope the move is a good one! Karin Duffy is feeling better but still in the hospital. Get well soon Karin!!!! Local 35 welcomes new member, Matt Lango. December's quote is on Christmas:

*Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.*

Calvin Coolidge



## LOCAL 33

Freedom Of Road Riders®

14<sup>th</sup> Annual

# ADOPT-A-FAMILY





## Christmas 2012

Members of Local 33, Freedom Of Road Riders®, are sponsoring area families at Christmas and need your help to be successful. We'll gladly accept toys, canned goods, non-perishable food items, and monetary donations.

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**LOCAL 41 - CAMERON CROSSROADS****Meetings: 1st Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m. - Call for location****Contact: Steve Gallus 816-449-5037 or 2707**

Local 41 has learned that Breadeaux Pizza in Cameron has closed their doors. This is where we have had meetings for as long as I can remember. We would like to wish Menuon (hope I spelled it correctly) the very best. She has been through some ruff times, and she always treated us very well. We are going to miss her and we enjoyed having our meetings at her place. God Bless you Menuon and our prayers and thoughts are with you always. We will never forget you and your kindness.

We will be deciding on a new meeting place at our meeting. There is a new community center in Weatherby that would be usable. It is warm and it also has a kitchen and would be easy to get to. We all know the Mayor of Weatherby and maybe she could help us out. It's always good to know people in high places.

The weather was good for our Toy Run. Had 4 Bikes and 4 Trikes and 16 people. Santa Claus even showed up and we were able to make a lot of kid's Christmas's a lot better. We are still taking donations, after all it's all about the kids. Thank You to the Cameron Police Department for their support and making our Toy Run safe. Thank You Amy and Jeff Poole who set up a booth on Behalf of Local 41 at the Fall Festival in Cameron. We are grateful that you joined our local. It's wonderful people like you that makes FORR what it is. Your dedication has not went unnoticed.

Our local is talking about having a food drive for the food pantry. This would help out all different age groups to survive. It's always a good feeling to be able to help someone out. I have a friend who has fallen on to bad times at no fault of their own. They came out of the grocery store and in the seat of the car was a letter. The letter said "I noticed that the tires on your car are very unsafe and dangerous to you and your kids, inside this letter you will find a bill of sale for four tires. Go to this place and they will put your tires on and all I ask is that someday when you are able you can help someone out who is in need. God Bless You". When they showed me the letter it brought tears to my eyes and made me realize that people still do care. Then four new tires opened up a new beginning for them, because he got a new job at the very tire shop they were sent to. His wife has recovered from breast cancer and their life is getting back to normal all in the last month. You hear of all kinds of bad stuff going on around us, but something like this makes you forget all that and realize how lucky we really are. Their problems weren't drug related they were just victims of circumstances, and could happen to any of us at any given time. God is so good!!

PEACE and LOVE

STEMS

stems54@hotmail.com

**LOCAL 42 - FRANKLIN COUNTY****Meetings: Last Sunday @ 3:00 p.m.****Pacific Eagle Small Meeting Room in Pacific, MO****Contact: President - Rick Gish 314-578-6006**

Hello everyone, getting everything winterized is not an easy task... It just kind of came out of nowhere... I missed our fall dance and our Oct. meeting for nominations on account of a death in my family... I went to our President's house on Friday before I left Saturday to ask to be nominated for all offices. Our last meeting Keifer asked that I be nominated to go to the Mid South M.I.L.E. in Fayetteville Ark. And I looked over at Gearjammer and he grinned... Road Trip... Left out at noon Friday and saw Treelimb and his gang at the Flyin J in Joplin as we pulled in they headed out... Let out a whistle and he turned around and thought it was one of his riders and went on... They were braving the cold on their scoots. Pulled in to the State line fill and choke and there they were in the parking lot... Tailed them to the Hotel for the Mile... Arrived at the Hotel and checked in and we were greeted by just about everyone there. On Friday night we met everyone at the various hospitality suites... I have to admit Arkansas ABATE put on one heck of an event... There is way too much that happened that I can put in a single article... I told Carl that I would be hearing something that I needed to and I was right.. They were so grateful to have first time attendees that they went out of their way to make us feel welcome... On Sat. morning, Keifer, Carl, and I sat down and mapped out what courses we were gonna attend so we could get together later and compare notes... I attended the 3 R's... Two leadership courses, and one called Motorcycling for women... I know... I thoroughly enjoyed all four... Met Theo and the Good Bart from Belgium and listened to what was goin on across the water... Met people from Texas, Kansas, Iowa, Arkansas, Tenn. And other states... Unfortunately Martin and Mel broke down outside of Huntsville Ark. And luckily we found someone to pick them up otherwise I would have went home and got my truck and trailer and got em, but with some effort Treetop got hold of Skyler and he rescued them... Thanks V.P... you de man... gonna stop here and add more in the next month's newsletter... I do want to mention that Keifer and Cindy did a great job on Missouri's Basket.. it was an awesome honeywagon filled with neat stuff...

Met Debbie, Alma, Rick, Kenny, John, and a few others I can't remember, cleaned our roadside trash pick thing for Local 42.. Then on Sunday the 4th we all met at the Eagles for our toy run and pictures with Santa at Case & Bucks... We did good... Found out who the winners were for the Fall Dance costume contest.. An Eskimo Princess won best costume and a 12 point buck won the worst... I know, don't ask...

I would like to thank Wayne (MRF) for his course on the 3 R's and for sending me a DVD with his presentation on it.. I would like to start doing his presentation for all of our members who haven't seen it... I think that was what I was supposed to hear cause I went to another course and they were full up so I went to his instead... Am so glad I did... I will never

Continued on Page 16



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Corporate Sponsor - January 2012 / December 2012



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Sessions begin at 10:00 am

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say...I hope they make it home OK... I will take responsibility and make sure they get home OK and not end up as another statistic...I challenge everyone to not say this when bikes and alcohol are involved... and do something about it... This weekend I will be attending the Legislative and C.C. meetings in Jeff City and the following weekend is our elections... By the way I ran for all of the offices so there won't be an office left behind... All in all October was a great month... Look forward to seeing everyone at the F.E.W. Seminar coming up in January, and I encourage everyone that has a desire to be an Officer.... ATTEND!... That's all I got for now...Please vote... Talk later, Tex

## DISTRICT 1

**Meetings: 1st Wednesday**

**Check with your local rep for location**

The next meeting will be in December. Check with your district rep. for time and place. I think they are going to have it in St. Joe. I am glad that District Rally will still go on even though I don't know where and when. Hopefully it is where I can get to it and when I can get there. I am glad that all three Locals are still going to be involved in the rally. We are going to as a district work hard to make this rally possible. Our District is blessed in having so many wonderful people involved in it. We may wear different clothes, ride different rides, and share different views, but we all want to ride motorcycles and protect those rights. Freedom can only be accomplished if we all work together.



## DISTRICT 4

**Meetings: 2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 pm**

**Iron Skillet Restaurant (Petro Truck Stop), Oak Grove**

**Contact: 816-550-9591 or 816-536-8147**

Dear District 4 Freedom of Road Riders

I know how awful it is when you're counting on someone and she lets you down, so that makes it even harder for me to try to find the words to apologize for the principal's late appearance at the Toy Run for the Sunshine Center.

I am aware that you expected her to be there, at the Sunshine Center and that she showed up late, which embarrassed both of us. I never enjoy putting anyone in a situation like that, and I am truly sorry that you had to endure those moments of wondering where she was. And I truly regret that you had to try to make excuses in your minds for her tardiness.

She profoundly apologized upon arrival, there was a medical emergency in her family (very serious, a matter of life and death) and she hopes to make this up to the participating Freedom of Road Riders in the future. She was asking for us to forgive her, which we gladly did, given the circumstances..

It all turned out good, everything got delivered, and before parting a very special prayer was said for her and her family.

Election Day Eve and I am writing this with hope and prayer. I attended The Mid-South Mile and once again had a great time hooking up with friends and meeting new folks. I still don't have my notes and things from the Meeting of the Minds. Katherine Fox has apparently taken them hostage. I have not received the ransom demand as yet but negotiations are ongoing. I hope to pay the ransom Saturday prior to the committee meetings so that is can prepare my written and oral report for CC the next day.

I attended several classes, one conducted by John Pierce of Abate of Oklahoma and MRF, called "Woo your Legislators". He provided many ideas and great intelligence. So upon my return, I decided to put it to the test. I spent an entire day working for a candidate for U.S. Congress one I might add is not even running in Congressional district. If he is elected he should remember who helped him get there. If he doesn't, remind him. Deanna Norris was also in that class and provided great insight,

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such as sucking up to the legislative aide with chocolate. Remember she is one and knows her boss relies on her to help him keep things straight and cover things he is unable to do.

For those who have attended in the past, Theo and "Good" Bart were with us again from Belgium. What you may ask can we learn from a couple of guys from Europe? Well, we were able to get a copy of their power point presentation and you will find that anything that happens across the pond can and probably will creep over here.

The Toy Run was very successful. When we arrived the Sunshine School Director was not there. We were able to track her down and found out she had a family emergency and arrived about half hour late. We don't gather the toys and baby food for the glory we do it for the kids. And it was a beautiful day for a ride which is the best reason of all. District 4 has scheduled the "3rd Annual Crockpot Cookoff" for January 19, 2013 at 6 pm. We will gather at VFW Post 3976, 12810 Kentucky Rd, Sugar Creek, MO. We need a much bigger spot and we have three prizes with first and second place. We will also play "Last Biker Standing". I gave Shelly two dates for our ride to Jefferson City so she can put them on the calendar, February 12 and March 20. I am searching for cheaper options for the ride, any ideas let me know. We will also start in Lee's Summit, pick up at Wal-Mart in Warrensburg and pick-up and pee stop in Sedalia. More info to come.

Abide!

Amy "Sunshine" Allmon

Ask me to explain the name.



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| Local  | Last Report |
|--------|-------------|
| 1      | 10/12       |
| 5      | 9/12        |
| 6      | 9/12        |
| 7      | 9/12        |
| 8      | 10/12       |
| 10     | 9/12        |
| 11     | 10/12       |
| 12     | 8/12        |
| 13     | 9/12        |
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| 30     | 9/12        |
| 31     | 7/12        |
| 33     | 8/12        |
| 35     | 9/12        |
| 41     | 8/12        |
| 42     | 9/12        |
| Dist 1 | 9/11        |
| Dist 4 | 9/12        |
| MAFR   | 9/12        |

Don't forget - District & Special Events Are Subject to the Same Rules As Locals Regarding Financials

If you don't agree with this report, Please contact Staples Comeau at 636-343-2876 or treasurer@forr.net

# A HISTORY OF BIKERS RIGHTS IN AMERICA

As Seen By Bill Bish

NATIONAL COALITION OF MOTORCYCLISTS

About 30 years ago, bikers across America got sick and tired of being told by a bunch of Washington bureaucrats and local politicians who'd never thrown a leg over a motorcycle what they HAD TO WEAR, how they HAD TO RIDE, and what our BIKES HAD TO BE BUILT LIKE!! And over the years, motorcyclists have organized themselves into a viable political force. We are one of the few TRUE grass roots movements in the country. Others may share an avocation, profession or recreation, but they don't share the passion. Bikers have succeeded in taking their passion and turning it into a movement...a "Freedom Movement," because we have the passion for freedom. Freedom is something we believe in, and that motorcycling is just one very enjoyable way to experience it. Well folks, that passion will always be inside you, each of you, the Harley, Honda, Yamaha, BMW or Triumph rider, from the doctor to the construction worker. And that motorcycle will remain an outlet for that passion...as long as we continue to bypass the barriers of appearance or ego and work together to preserve our right to ride. And that's what our movement is all about...a diverse bunch of people, most of us staunch individualists, but with one common denominator and a common goal...Freedom Of The Road. The kind of camaraderie that brought the first two motorcycle riders together to share a ride down a country lane is the same kind of camaraderie that formed our early motorcycle clubs and associations and, eventually, our motorcycle rights organizations. Motorcycle Rights Organizations (MRO's) as we now know them started developing in the early 70's, after the first national helmet effort caused almost every state to pass mandatory lid laws. Since then motorcyclists have never been strangers to political activism. In fact, early motorcycle riders were among the first special interest groups to lobby for better roads. At the turn of the 20th Century as Indian footpaths and trails became rough and rutted dirt roads, motorcycles served as a primary form of transportation, and motorcyclists became vocal about improving the road conditions. Later, riders were among the first groups to push for an interstate highway system. YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHERE YOU'VE BEEN TO KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING! My name is Bill Bish, and I'm the former Executive Coordinator of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists and Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (AIM & NCOM), and have been active in bikers rights for over fifteen years. I have served in various state positions with ABATE of California, including two terms as Chairman of the Board and two terms as State Director. Sooo, for you history buffs, I'll try to piece together some of our early beginnings, with apologies to those who were there from the start. I wasn't, so this is only from my early conversations with people like Deacon Dave Phillips, Ron Roloff, Keith Ball, Sherm Packard and others who WERE there, as well as my own research and admittedly spotty memory. But, to help validate this version of Biker History, I ran the article by most of the people mentioned herein. Through NCOM and ABATE of California, I have traveled across the United States to preach unity and spread information, and I will always treasure my memories of the places that bikers' rights has taken me and the friendly faces that have greeted me. Because our issue is so emotional and deeply personal, I have developed close relationships with many Freedom Fighters throughout the country who I am proud to call Brothers and Sisters. It was this deep sense of "family" within the motorcycle rights community that inspired me to trace our Family Tree. Much has been said of the coming new millennium, and of the opportunities and pitfalls our future holds in store, but one thing is certain...YOU CAN'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING UNLESS YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'VE BEEN! With that thought in mind, I'd like to take you on a brief trip down memory lane, as we open up our Family Album and retrace our History as a bikers' rights movement here in the United States. Don't worry, there won't be a test, and hopefully this brief history lesson will be at least as interesting as your High School History classes!

Easyriders magazine editor Lou Kimzey issued a plea in issue #3, October 1971, for bikers to come together to fight impending restrictions from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) by joining a new national bikers' rights organization called the National Custom Cycle Association, but because of a conflict with the acronym the name was changed in February 1972 to A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments (ABATE). I recall Joe Teresi, publisher of Easyriders, telling me that they had a contest around the office to come up with a new name, and one of the secretaries came up with "ABATE". He told me they were on deadline and had to come up with a logo real fast, so they took a stylized German eagle and transformed it into the logo used by many ABATE's to this day. Keith Ball was just 22 when he became the original ABATE manager in 1971, and he later became editor of Easyriders and the National Director of ABATE. He recently retired from Easyriders as the Editorial Director and Executive Vice President of Paisano Publications and went into retirement, though he now operates an internet site called Bikernet.com which still focuses on bikers' rights. Easyriders began granting state charters in 1974, and ABATE's which came into existence around this time were chartered in Kansas, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and New York; and also MMA of California, MMA of Massachusetts, New Hampshire Motorcycle Rights Organization, Rhode Island Motorcycle Association, Connecticut Motorcycle Rights Association, and the Wisconsin Better Bikers Association. Easyriders published phone numbers, contacts and legislative news, and the bikers rights network began to grow. The Modified Motorcycle Association of California was founded at the same time as many ABATES.

The original federal helmet mandates, which were instituted in 1966 by Congress and later repealed in 1976, were designed by the U.S. DOT (Department of Transportation) as a means to restrict modified or customized "choppers" which they deemed unsafe. Especially extended forks and apehangers which were popular. Deacon, founder of ABATE of California, once related to me that the 60's fad of ridiculously high sissy bars came about because the government started requiring "grab bars" for passenger safety, so the riders of the day flaunted the law by building them as long and garish as they could get by with. Almost every state during this time began passing handlebar height restrictions, eyewear requirements, motorcycle licensing requirements, lights-on laws and other equipment regulations and many other restrictions. The government claimed that the restriction against our "Freedom Machines" were coming down the pike to make motorcycle riding "safer". Funny, but back in the sixties they just wanted to force bikers off the streets. Publicly they tooted that they wanted to SAVE US from ourselves!

In most states, before motorcyclists became politically organized, the clubs were the first to fight helmet laws and other restrictions. In many instances clubs founded the states' motorcycle rights organizations. Before MMA or ABATE of California came into existence, the Hells Angels M/C and Ralph "Sonny" Barger in particular had succeeded in keeping the state of California helmet-free even though Congress had passed legislation in 1966 requiring every state to pass a helmet law or lose 10% of their federal highway funds, (this should sound familiar, since we just recently faced the same type of national helmet law in the nineties). Rumors still circulate around Sacramento about 1,000 Hells Angels on the Capitol lawn, and HA's camped out on the door steps of legislative opponents. Soon the old intimidation tactics wore thin and club leaders realized that they needed to legitimize their efforts by creating a more sophisticated political lobbying arm. In the case of California, the Hells Angels founded the MMA of California. Various states have similar history with local clubs which were the roots of their MRO.

About this same time, the American Motorcyclist Association began to recognize the motorcyclists rights movement and they established the AMA Government Relations Department, but not until 1976. As the rights movement grew, Don Pittsley, a member of the Huns M/C in Connecticut convinced his congressman, Rep Stewart McKinney, to introduce H.R.3869 to end the Federal authority to withhold highway funds from states without helmet laws. In July of 1975, Rob Rasor of the AMA, Ron Roloff of MMA and Ed Armstrong of ABATE of Chicago presented the House Sub-Committee on Surface Transportation with convincing testimony to repeal the mandates. California was being sued by the DOT, because

Governor Ronald Reagan refused to comply with the federal mandate. Roloff helped convince California Senator Alan Cranston to offer the language of the bill as an amendment to the 1975 Federal Highway Act, which passed with overwhelming support from the California delegation because of the impending lawsuit. It was signed by President Gerald Ford on May 5, 1976. Not bad for a rag tag bunch of bikers with little or no previous political ambitions.

Spurred on by many successful protest rallies around the country following the national helmet law repeal, 30 state laws were repealed. ABATE, MMA and other motorcycle rights organizations sprang up in every state across the country and are now a fixture in state houses. There were several failed attempts to start a national motorcycle rights organization, including Easyriders'. In 1985 the Motorcycle Rights Fund (MRF - later changing their name to Motorcycle Riders Foundation) hosted their first Meeting of the Minds conference, and a few months later, in 1986, the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) held their first National Convention. Motorcycling leaders realized the need for a united voice and the necessity of networking and communications, and both the MRF and NCOM grew and have become effective partners with state MRO's in protecting riders' rights on the federal, state and local fronts.

The concept of unity was put to the test in the early 1990's, when Congress again attempted to force states into passing helmet laws, and American motorcyclists came together en masse, and in a coordinated effort between the MRF and NCOM virtually every state sent representatives from their State MRO to walk the hallowed halls of Washington, D.C., in search of their U.S. Senators and Representatives. The grand lobbying experiment WORKED, and in just FOUR YEARS bikers were able to convince Congress to once again repeal their misdirected and misguided "nanny" law and return the decision to the individual states. That same legislation also repealed the 55 mph minimum speed limit! Soon afterwards, Arkansas modified their mandatory helmet law to allow Freedom of Choice for adult riders 21 and older. Texas soon followed, as well as Kentucky, Louisiana and, most recently, Florida. Today, the scoreboard reads 20 Helmet Law States vs. 30 Free Choice States!

As a result of our newfound political clout, motorcyclists have successfully approached Congress twice over the past few years, first in 1996 to grant federal protections against insurance discrimination based on mode of transportation because many companies (most notably Ruger Firearms and the Teamsters Union) were denying medical benefits to employees injured in motorcycle accidents). Although this legislation was recently nullified by new federal regulations written in the waning days of the Clinton Administration, this nationwide effort was textbook politics at its best. The fight continues but the movement WILL succeed in reinstating the intent of Congress to protect us against insurance discrimination. Then, in 1998, motorcyclists united once again to put together a pro-active agenda for bikers, and succeeded in lobbying it through Congress. Included in this "wish list" for bikers was a guarantee that motorcyclists would be included during the development of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technology, which ensures that motorcycles are guaranteed access to any and all roads built with the use of federal highway funds (no road bans). This effort will restrict anti-motorcycle lobbying efforts by NHTSA and provides \$131 million for recreational trails development and maintenance! During this active span of time, many state rights groups have become proactive within their states instead of RE-acting to legislative threats. Minnesota passed our nation's first law to make it illegal to discriminate against someone because they ride a motorcycle. Arizona, Iowa, Oregon and Washington have successfully repealed or modified their state's handlebar height laws. Virginia and Illinois have lobbied their states to reinforce the federally guaranteed access to roads by passing laws to protect our rights to ride on any roads within their state boundaries. Virginia and Maryland amended their state's parking laws to allow more than one bike per metered space. And several states have fought and defeated "No Fault" insurance proposals that are unfair to motorcyclists. Also, now, through the work of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists, patch holders in nearly 40 states and two Canadian Provinces have come together to form Confederations of Clubs to fight discrimination and police harassment through the courts, bringing the motorcycle rights network full circle with the rejuvenated interest of the motorcycle club community.

While our early bikers' rights leaders paved our way, other dynamic and concerned riders have come forward to take the reigns and lead us into the new millennium. We should never forget the efforts and sacrifices of our predecessors who faced intimidation from law enforcement, indifference from legislators and animosity from a public that saw "The Wild One" one too many times. They got the job done. Were it not for their perseverance and dedication, we would not have become the respected and effective grass roots lobbying group that we are today.

So, there you have it. The roots of ABATE and the American motorcyclists' rights movement run deep in the hearts of those of us who have accepted and, in turn, passed on the torch of Freedom of the Road. To all those who came before, we salute you. Where will the future take us? That's entirely up to you. New restrictions on our freedom and our motorcycles are coming at us now from across the big pond. If we don't increase our political strength, we may be looking at the last days of motorcycling as we know it. We need to protect the future of motorcycling against the upcoming European invasion! The biggest threat facing motorcyclists today is not necessarily from our own Government. It may very well be the EUROPEAN THREAT, as the strictest motor vehicle standards in the world are adopted as global standards. On June 25, 1998, the global motorcycle came closer to reality, as the United States, Japan and the 15 member countries of the European Union (EU) signed an agreement in Geneva, under the auspices of the United Nations, to develop global regulations concerning the safety performance of motor vehicles and equipment. So, the UNIVERSAL motorcycle is on it's way. The automotive and motorcycle industries have long advocated global uniformity of standards, because conflicting standards mean expensive design changes for each market. Unfortunately for motorcyclists, this means that European threats such as leg protectors, air bags, noise limits, horsepower restrictions and anti-tampering measures, will now become global issues. There are 300,000 new bikes sold in the USA each year, and 1,000,000 new bikes sold in Europe. Which standards do you think will apply? Construction standards could ban: Air-cooled engines, open chain drives, 2-stroke motors, self-tuning and customizing. Regulations will include Catalytic Converters to reduce emissions, along with reducing power and increasing fuel consumption, while driving up the cost of motorcycles. Medium/Long Term Threats in Europe include the following: Vintage/classics banished to museums, due to End-of-Life issues Construction standards mandated Using "Anti-Tampering" Sheer Bolts to prevent home maintenance and performance work. Armored, high visibility clothing. Bike bans on certain roads, in certain tourist areas and when pollution levels rise. Massive road tax increases and heavy-handed taxes on motorcycles. Multi-stage (tiered) licensing to ride a motorcycle, and very expensive. Yes, and research continues, even today, on leg protectors and air bags! Vision Zero: There's no such thing as an "accident" with today's technologically advanced vehicles. BUT motorcycles will always be subject to human error! Therefore they would be BANNED under this proposed Swedish plan which almost became official policy! Intelligent Transportation System: Basically, the purpose of ITS is to use technology to achieve a more efficient flow of traffic. But while the goal is safer, quicker travel, ultimately ITS technology will eliminate human error by taking control of the vehicle away from the driver. NHTSA promises active public participation in the development of the new global motor vehicle safety standards, with public meetings and comment periods as the plan is implemented, and Congress has promised that motorcycles will be included in any future ITS developments. Motorcyclists will have to ensure that our collective voice is heard during the planning stages. So, if we want to continue to ride free, we must spread the word to other concerned riders, to our youth, and to our legislators. Join a motorcycle rights group and support their efforts. Freedom will never die. --Bill Bish

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# News From Around the Globe

**ROANOKE RAPIDS, N.C.** — A North Carolina man is without his motorcycle after a city garbage collecting crew confused it for an old, abandoned couch.

According to a report from WTVD-TV, Joseph Morning of Roanoke Rapids routinely left his bike parked out on the street in front of his home. But when his girlfriend, April Wilson, left their home one morning to run an errand two weeks ago, she noticed the motorcycle – which had been covered – missing.

"I was coming out to go somewhere and I happened to look at the curb and I was like, 'Something's missing.' I stopped and I paused and I'm like, 'The motorcycle-where is it at?' So I come down here to the curb, and I find where the mirror was broken off," Wilson told WTVD.

After some investigation, the couple eventually learned that a crew with the City of Roanoke Rapids Waste Services had picked up the motorcycle, thinking it was garbage.

"I had my motorcycle cover covering it, but the wheel was still showing on the bike. And the mirrors were sticking up from the bike, also. So you could tell it was a motorcycle," Morning said.

The garbage collecting service's excuse left Morning stunned. "He said when he picked it up, it was so heavy, he thought it was a couch," Morning said. He says that he took a trip to the city's waste disposal facility, where he found his now-crushed motorcycle.

The Roanoke Rapids city manager apologized for the incident, and said that the city's insurance company will be taking care of Morning's claim, WTVD reports

## Motorcycle Fatalities Down on Virginia Roadways

November 3, 2012

Preliminary Data released by the Virginia Highway Safety Office (VAHSO) shows that motorcycle fatalities for 2012 are down by 17.86% as compared to motorcycle fatalities for 2011 at this same time last year. As of October 31, 2012 there have been 69 motorcycle fatalities in Virginia. As of October 31, 2011 there were 84. This is very good news for Virginia Motorcyclists. By contrast, fatalities involving car occupants has increased by 3.11 % while fatalities involving bicyclists have increased by 33.33%. While occupants of pickup trucks, vans and SUVs also saw decreases in fatalities, those decreases were not as large as the decrease in motorcycle related fatalities.

While even a single motorcycle fatality is one too many, we all understand that fatal crashes are a risk taken by every person who uses the public roadways regardless of the type of vehicle used or occupied. We also understand that from year to year there will be a natural rise and fall in these numbers that are beyond human control. For instance, some years will have more days that are conducive to motorcycle riding than others. We would naturally expect to see a rise in fatalities during such years simply because there are more motorcycles on the roadways.

That being said, a drop in motorcycle fatalities is good news for motorcyclists on two levels. The first and most important is that fewer of our brothers and sisters are dying. That is good news for us and our loved ones. The second is that when fatalities drop our state government is less likely to use its legislative power to attempt to protect us. As we are only two months away from the Virginia General Assembly's 2013 session we should all be sensitive to that. Many of you remember the bill a few years ago that would have prevented motorcycles from using certain bridges when the weather forecast called for high winds. That legislation was the result of a single motorcycle fatality. Luckily the bill was ultimately withdrawn by the patron after sitting down with motorcyclists who were able to explain that high winds had not been a problem, and that motorcyclists do a very good job of determining when, and when not to use certain routes depending upon conditions and their own riding skills and experience.

The Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists has long taken the position that education is the single most effective measure to prevent motorcycle fatalities. That means both rider education and awareness education.

We are lucky in Virginia. We have a very strong rider education program, and a driver's education system that makes motorcycle awareness part of its curriculum.

I think that I speak for all Virginia Motorcyclists when I say that I hope that we continue to see a decline in not only motorcycle fatalities but crashes as a whole. Let's each do our part to help that happen. If you know a rider who has not yet taken a rider education course, encourage them to do so. If it has been a while since you have taken one yourself, consider doing it. The worst thing that could happen is that you will have spent a weekend riding and brushing up on your skills. The best thing that could happen is that you could be Virginia's next non-statistic.

As always, if you have any questions concerning the information in this article or on any other matter please feel free to contact me at 1-800-321-8968 or email me at [matt@motorcyclelawgroup.com](mailto:matt@motorcyclelawgroup.com).

Matt Danielson

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Tom McGrath's Motorcycle Law Group

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## Calendar of Events

*Check inside this issue for more information on the events listed on this calendar.*



### DECEMBER

1 Local 14 Independence Benefit Auction 816-709-3618

1 Local 16 Cape Girardeau Christmas Dance 573-768-2534

15-16 Local 33 50 Hwy W Adopt-A-Family 660-233-3949

### JANUARY

12 Central Committee F.E.W. Seminar 800-309-7433

19 District 4 Crock Pot Cook-off 816-536-1647



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