

June, 2009

Celebrating our 28th Year Chartered Sept. 10th, 1980



SMRO is an acronym for State Motorcycle Rights Association. They are organizations comprised of individuals who are dedicated to insuring personal liberties in our legislature. They are dedicated to maintaining the lifestyle of motorcycling by working legislatively to promote motorcycle awareness & road safety and regaining lost liberties.

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Temporary Change

So, you are probably wondering why the newsletter looks different this month.

Frankie asked me to step in and help put together this temporary replacement until we get our Editor

back behind his desk.

We ask that you keep Rob and Lyn in your thoughts and prayers.

ATM



Rob Assenzio, our Editor-in-Chief

From the desk of the Chief

Hi everyone, as always I hope this newsletter finds all well. This is usually where I continue on with all the goings on around the world of motorcycling. Today I want to talk about something else. As of this writing we have Rob and Lyn trying to recover from injuries sustained in crash on the beach this past weekend. The offender was a 15 year old, driving on a permit issued in another state and also operating a rental car on our roadways, not only illegal but what the hell were his parents thinking.....as they were in the car with him. And now due to their blatant disregard of rules and laws we have our family in

the hospital. As much as I want justice I'm not sure what should be done in this situation. This is absolutely horrible for all concerned. Both families have been traumatized by this event. At first I was shocked, then I was furious. As time went on, my anger turned to concern for our people and now I guess we leave it up to the Doctors to put us back together the best they can and the lawyers to fight for restitution and when the dust settles nothing has changed as we are still being slaughtered out there.

We all, as this states only MRO, must work harder than ever before to get our aware-

ness program out there. I know in my heart if that young man had attended one of our MSAP classes that crash would not have occurred. I am a very strong believer in this program and I know it saves lives, OUR lives. So please do what you can to help promote motorcycle safety and awareness it may save your life one day.

Last week we lost a longtime member of ABATE Bernie from Bernie's Hideaway now known as the Alva Diner. Many of the old folks remember the parties out at the hideaway. I stopped in and spoke with Grandpa Stewart about Bernie then headed out to the service. I was accompanied by

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our Sgt-At-Arms Vic. We went and paid our respects and I pinned an ABATE set of wings to his lapel and thanked him for his many years of service to our cause. We were very welcomed by the family members and we were told by his daughter that her Dad would be glad to know we were there to send him off.

May is motorcycle safety and awareness month. The Southwest chapter will be out at the Shell Factory the 29th 30th and 31st of May to do a large safety table and run a bike show/poker run/bike games. It's also that time of year for our annual Bears for Bears event all that weekend. So come out and join us for the first big event of the season. The next big event for our area will be our 5-Star in July also at the Shell Factory; so mark your calendar, you wont want to miss either of these events. Also, we are still looking for help for the 5 star if you can help in any way at all please let someone on the E Board know. We will put you right to work.

This is usually the month for nominations for elections however at last years elections it was stated that they were for two year terms. I will leave that up to the membership at Junes meeting. At least I will call for a vote of confidence for the people already in positions and open floor for discussion on appointments to any open positions

Thus giving us an opportunity to fill any vacancies.

Chapter products can be purchased from our chapter website if it's not up and going

yet it will be soon so watch for it. Chapter flags and embroidered doo-rags are also in, check newsletter for details or come out and see me at Victory Lane Bike night any Wednesday. We always have products and info at our safety table.

Though we were scheduled to do Ft. Myers bike night this past Sat I decided to cancel as it was impossible to make it in lieu of all that happened that day.

This Saturday is an event at Ft. Myers Harley. There will be only one vendor in the parking lot, and that will be the ABATE Safety booth manned by people from the Lee County chapters. Thank you goes to Tammy Brickley for heading up this event. She will be getting help from her Estero River Chapter as well as help from both Caloosahatchee and Southwest Chapters. Great job guys thanks for your support.

I have been picking up stuffed animals all week for our Bears for Bears program at the shell factory. Hopefully Mike Scott will be able to make it to our event this year. The presentation of the bears will be on the 31st of May between 3:00 and 4:00 pm. It promises to be a great time with drawings, door prizes, bike games, and a lot of stuff. Come out and have a great time with us.

The bike games will be headed up by Jennifer from Harley and the bike show will be run by our own Trick Rick. As always, you guys, thanks so much for all your ef-

forts and your tremendous support.

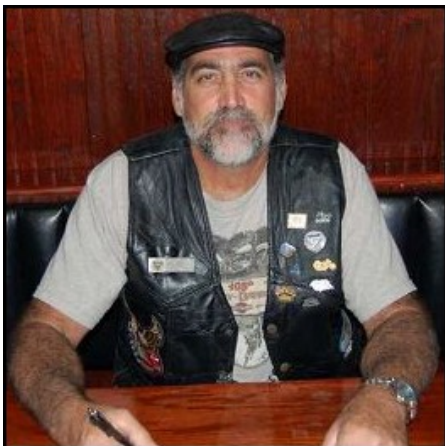
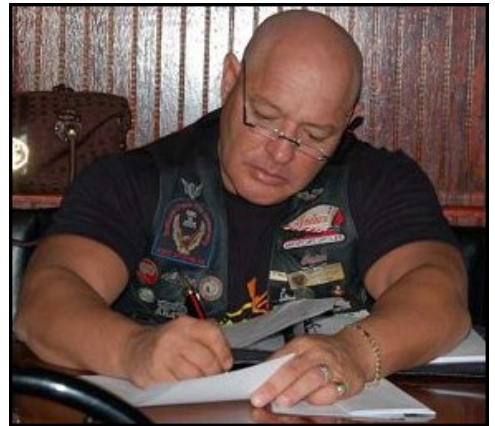
Check the Masterlink for your update on legislative issues or just check our website as all the info is also listed there.

June will be the next state meeting up in Lake County followed by seminars in De-Land in July. Anyone going, get with me and let me know as we will need to reserve rooms for the seminars.

In closing, I just want to take this opportunity to thank all the people of the Southwest Chapter. I've always felt as we were one big family, and in tough times we work together hand in hand. It makes me proud to be surrounded by such great people and further it is my pleasure to serve as your president.....Thanks for the opportunity.

LET'S PREVENT THE CRASH, THEN THERE IS NO NEED FOR A HELMET

Ride Safe, Frankie



From the Vice President

HELLO BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

We have are Bears for Bears coming up the end of this month, also we are working on the Five Star Event in July we still need help for the front Gate and Security, we are needing volunteers for this so if you can spare a few Hours please let the Board know. Will we are praying

for a speedy recovery for Rob and Lyn, if you did not know they were in an accident on Fort Myers Beach that is why we need to always looking and know are surroundings. We cannot take anything for granted are try to guess what someone is going to do, we need to drive or Ride defensively at all times. I know all are Prays go out to them for a speedy recovery. Also we want to wish John

Spinella a speedy recovery he also was in the hospital with an illness so hope all of them to get well soon. We hear of Bikers going down but you never know how hard it hits you till it is one of your own close Friends. Please be careful on the roads know that summer is here and the schools will be out.

UNTIL NEXT TIME
RIDE SAFE

Southwest Chapter meeting minutes:

May 17 2009 Meeting called to order 10:00 am
Victory Lane Café
2150 Hancock Bridge Parkway
North Fort Myers, FL 33903

Frankie led the group in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

24 members present
2 non members

Frankie asked if there were any other people taking notes or minutes at the meeting: No response.

President's report: Frankie addressed the membership and told of the crash on Saturday May 16th on Fort Myers Beach involving Rob and Lyn Assenzio our newsletter editor and his wife our chapter photographer. Rob is still in ICU as of this writing and Lyn although very beat up was treated and released the day of the crash.

Frankie discussed legislative issues and brought the membership up to speed on what was going on at that level.

The Swamp Fest was discussed and people volunteered to man stops for the poker run out of the Shell Factory on Sunday.

Upcoming events such as 5 star were also discussed.

V.P.s report; nothing to add in the interest of time Bob will put his report in the newsletter.

Secretary: Absent excused Frankie taking notes.

Treasurer: Absent excused Frankie asked for a motion to accept the report subject to audit Rob Rabell made motion Rob Cran second all in favor none against motion passes Frankie also explained to membership that John Spinella is also in the hospital recovering from an infection he will be going home this week.

Membership: Absent excused, Rob Rabell gave Trudy's report.

Products: Frankie explained how the new site for chapter products works also Tree spoke on the bike flags the chapter ordered they are in.

The doo rags with the embroidered chapter logo are also ready.

Old business: none discussed look to newsletter for info

New business: none discussed look to newsletter for info.

Legislative: Ken Teddybear Miller, Absent excused, Frankie thanked Ken for his years of service to the Southwest chapter and asked the membership to keep him in our prayers as well as Lyn and Rob. For those that didn't know Ken lost his bride recently and could probably use a few phone calls.

Good of the order: In the interest of time we had many people wanting to visit with Rob and Lyn so a motion was made to adjourn by Larry second by Audrey meeting adjourned at 11:15

Submitted to the best of my ability your president

Frankie SW Chief

Sgt-at-Arms Report

I would like to thank every one who helped with shell factory event. Remember I will need help for The 5 star July 18th. Please call me (leave message if I don't answer) or e-mail pior10@yahoo.com

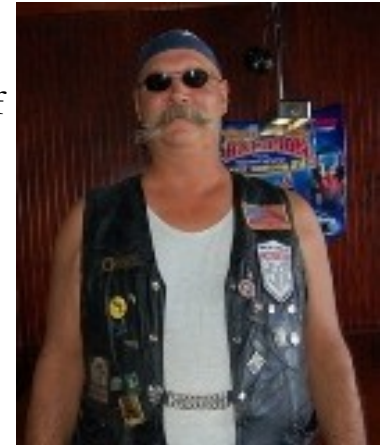
June we have a State meeting (lake county 13th an 14th) July 25th an 26th leadership seminars in Deland Flor-

ida, Please let Frankie or me know if you are interested in going.

Ride safe,

Victor Piorkowski
Sgt.-at-Arms

P.S. If interested for Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms. Please let me know.



Shameless Plug

With some extra space to fill, Frankie suggested that I plug InTown Rider Magazine.

Check out the June Issue if you don't already have a copy.

Let our advertisers know that you saw them in InTown Rider, and let other businesses know that they should be seen

in the magazine as well.

We're always looking for stories, so if you know of something that would be of interest to our community, let us know.

Visit our website, send us an email, or give us a call:

www.InTownRider.com



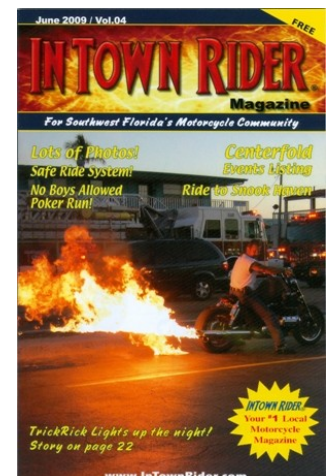
info@InTownRider.com

239-334-1620

Thank you again for the warm reception we have received. If you can't find a copy, let us know.

Kind regards,

ATM



Membership Report: May 2009

Welcome New Members: We hope that you choose to get involved with this growing and fun chapter... Anne Marie Eckhardt, Robert Eckhardt, Tom Pizzano, Earl (Smokey) Clark, and Alberta (Birdie) Clark.

Thanks for your renewals: Robb Rabell, Trudy Rabell (that's me,) Victor Piorowski, Mary Player, and Thomas Player.

Expired and/or Delinquent Members: If you know any of these folks, please encourage them to REJOIN or renew with SOUTHWEST CHAPTER!! Raymond Cordero, Jim Dolan, Robert Pohle, Gerald Collins, Jim Hogue,

Cindy Jordan.

If you are not receiving your newsletter or Masterlink, PLEASE CONTACT me to make sure your information is correct. If you have moved, your newsletter will not be forwarded.

Your membership expires on the last day of your Anniversary month. Delinquent renewals must be received no later than the Chapter meeting of the month following your anniversary date in order to maintain renewal status otherwise you will be enrolled as a new member.

Any who would like to recycle his or her first year pins in order to save the

Chapter money, PLEASE turn your pins into Membership, thanks.

Ride Safe and Free
Trudy Rabell
Membership Trustee



Southwest Chapter Life Members

Darrell Barnett
Denee Bartels
Scott Blink
Chet Butz
James Burkholder
Nora Burkholder
Don Campbell
Frances Cazes
Jonathan Conant
Terry Covington
Audrey Cran
Maggie Cran
Rick Cran
Rob Cran
Robert "Cruz" Crusan
Ginny D'Asti
Mary Dicenzo-Porter
Al Diagiaco
Frank Disomma
Cindy Doak
Randy Eck

Brian Galvin
Sonny Gartrell
Lynnda Gray
Bob Hall
Harry Hoover
George Huttman
Susan "Red" Huttman
Dan Jackson
Frankie Kennedy
John Kennedy
Ed LaCombe
Russell May
Rev. Rea Means
Don Meredith, Jr.
Jo Ann Miller
Kenneth Miller
Jim Mozeleski
Terry Padilla
Bob Penn
Asuncsion Peppers
Richard Peppers

Kathleen Provenzano
Rev. Thomas Provenzano
Bill Robinson
Janet Rolfe
Tabitha Rossi
Roland Salsberry
Jencye Schmitt
Jerry Schmitt
Bruce Scheiner
Elsie Seif
Robert Simon
Richard Stergulz
Sandy Stergulz
Grandpa Stewart
Ruth Vorys
Teresa Webster
D. Payton Wells
Michael Wieland

Open Letter to Lora L. Hunt, Reckless Killer of Anita Zaffke

Dear Ms. Hunt,

On the afternoon of 2 May 2009--the second day of "Motorcycle Awareness Month"--you made the deliberate decision to engage in the personal vanity of painting your fingernails rather than paying attention to your driving. In so doing, you knew or should have known that (just as if you were texting or talking on a cell phone) this deplorable discretionary distraction would transform the possibility of you being in an accident into a probability of causing one. In so doing, you exhibited a culpable disregard of the foreseeable consequences of your actions, and recklessly endangered the lives of all motorists who shared the road with you that day. And in so doing, you wantonly took the life of a helmeted, conspicuously clad, experienced and responsible motorcyclist, a loving wife and mother named Anita Zaffke.

It's too bad Anita Zaffke didn't take the interstate that day. If she had, at least there'd be much less chance you could have plowed full speed into the rear of her Honda as she waited for a light to change. Instead she was on an undivided road, where according to NHTSA (DOT HS 810 606 Table 20), 90% of all motorcycle accidents occur. And why is that? Because those are the roads where motorists guilty of inattentive blindness resulting from discretionary distractions are most likely to commit a right-of-way violation ... like pulling out or turning left in front of us as they chat on their cell phones ... or weaving into our lane and hitting us head on as they tap out their text messages ... or ramming us at a red light while they paint their fingernails.

That doesn't change the facts, however, that Anita Zaffke had every right to be where she was, and that you had no right to hit her stopped motorcycle so hard that you knocked her two hundred feet through the air, causing her to suffer for

more than an hour before succumbing to the mortal wounds inflicted by your total disregard for the lives of others.

You are responsible for taking a human life, Lora Hunt, because you made a conscious decision to engage in a distraction that you knew impaired your ability to drive. Yes, you were just as impaired as if you'd been driving under the influence of alcohol, if not more so. And had this been a DUI manslaughter, you'd probably be charged with a Class 2 Felony and sentenced to a jail term of 3 to 14 years. But "DWI" has yet to be redefined as "driving while impaired", in Illinois or elsewhere, so the charge you're more likely to face is reckless homicide, a Class 3 Felony punishable by only 2 to 5 years imprisonment. And even THAT charge has not been filed against you by the State's Attorneys ... yet.

Your untested but politically connected young lawyer, Ms. Ragan R. Freitag, only graduated from Mississippi College School of Law last year and passed her Illinois bar exam last October. But she has been quick to remind the masses through the media that "distracted driving is not illegal". That is true. And it is a sad commentary on the hypocrisy of our society that willfully endangering others by driving while impaired due to alcohol or drugs is a crime, but driving while being equally impaired by discretionary distractions is not. We will not allow Ms. Freitag's naive attempt at redirection, however, to obfuscate the real issue here. For even the staunchest Libertarians will agree that your freedom to swing a fist ends where someone else's right not to be hit begins. You crossed that line, Lora Hunt, when you took the life of Anita Zaffke. And no amount of remorse, staged or sincere, can undo the damage you have done.

For consciously deciding to engage in a discretionary distraction that led directly

to the death of a responsible motorcyclist, you must be held accountable. That process begins, Lora Hunt, when you are scheduled to appear in Lake County Court at 9 a.m. Monday, June 8, to deal with your ticket for "failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident":

Lake County Courthouse and Administration Building
18 North County Street
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359
http://www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us/info/info_n18.htm

RAIN OR SHINE, I HOPE THAT EVERY BIKER IN ILLINOIS RIDES TO MEET YOU THERE. I also hope that every rider reading this will join me in demanding that justice be done for Anita Zaffke, for her family, and for all American motorcyclists. And in closing, I hope that as a member of the First Christian Church of Morris IL, Lora Hunt, you realize how fortunate you are that the State of Illinois is not likely to apply the penalty for your crime prescribed in Leviticus 24(19-21): "If anyone injures his neighbor, whatever he has done must be done to him: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. As he has injured the other, so he is to be injured. Whoever kills an animal must make restitution, but whoever kills a man must be put to death."

I, for one, wish they would. Then maybe, over time, more would change in these reports than just the names.

by a Distance Rider.

Southwest Chapter of ABATE of Florida



P.O. Box 60745

Fort Myers, FL 33906

<http://Southwest.ABATEFlorida.com>

Southwest Chapter of ABATE of Florida

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