

River Riders Chapter

Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2011
Forest Lake VFW, Forest Lake MN

Call to order 12:10 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome visitors and new members

Roll Call:

President: Dave Bolduc (present)

Vice President: Bob McChesney (present)

Treasurer: Toni McChesney (present)

Secretary: Shelly Hansen (present)

Chapter Rep: Rick Mallinger (present)

Sergeant at Arms: Jim Palmer, Steve Bolduc, Scott Lecy, Charlie Hammer (present) Roger Ball (absent)

Meeting was attended by a total of 19 members and visitors. We welcomed Jean Afrooz, NE District Director.

Officer Reports

Secretary: A motion to waive the reading of the minutes was made by Bob Belland and seconded by Charlie Hammer. Motion to waive passed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Bob Belland and seconded by Robbie Provance. Minutes approved, motion passed. Subsequent to this meeting, paper copies of the minutes will be made available at future meetings. All minutes for the last three years are available through Shelly at any time. Dave will also e-mail copies of minutes to the chapter.

President: Dave discussed Gabby Gifford and the other individuals who were shot/killed in Arizona. Keep them all in your thoughts.

Biker Day at the Capitol - This will take place on February 2nd. Please try to come down. The bus is currently scheduled to leave the Forest Lake VFW at 8:25. Dave will bring his own van in case the bus is full – he can take some extras. Anyone with a larger vehicle is also welcome to drive to help out.

Wheels of Thunder magazine met with Mack Backlund and he did a write-up about Biker Day at the Capitol. They did a nice layout and put together a great piece. The current plan is for them to follow the River Riders throughout the day as we listen to the speakers and meet with our congress people.

Fundraiser – thanks to all who were there. We had a great turnout particularly considering the weather.

Vice President: Bob had nothing specific to report. He thanked everyone for coming to today's meeting.

Treasurer: Toni shared the breakdown of chapter funds. We currently have \$1083.05 for Buddy Bears, \$765.49 in the treasury and \$50 in petty cash for a total of \$1898.54. These totals are from prior to our fundraiser. After the fundraiser we earned \$231.30 in addition to \$105 of direct donation to the chapter. The treasury account now totals \$1101.79 and total chapter funds are \$2234.84. Motion to accept the treasury report made by Brad Hansen and seconded by Charlie Hammer. Motion approved. All approved, none opposed. Motion passed.

Chapter Rep: Rick brought the Operations and Procedures manual so that any who were interested could review officer duties in light of upcoming nominations/elections.

Biker Day – Rick requested a show of hands to see how many had pre-registered at this point. 14 of the 19 meeting attendees had already registered. A question was raised about what time the bus LEAVES the Capitol. It leaves at 2:00, and gets to Forest Lake around 2:40. If people aren't sure what legislative district they are in, this is noted on the ABATE membership card. When meeting with our congress people be sure to stay on topic, be friendly and don't stretch the truth.

Government: Charlie discussed Biker Day. 30% of the congress people are new. They have their own agendas which aren't necessarily ours. This is a great teachable moment for these new legislators. We will be pursuing three issues this year – helmets, protection of dedicated funds and pushing forward on failure to yield. Not pursuing additional driver training at this time. Suggestions from Charlie – stay on task with the message, leave with a smile on your face, respect their time. Send thank you letters when you are done and request a response. Any responses can be turned in for Write to Ride.

District Director: Jean mentioned Representative Gifford – she was the chair of the House Motorcycle Safety Caucus and a good friend to us.

- Biker Day – get registered so appointments can be made
- Heartland STEAM is coming to MN 3/25-3/27. This only comes to our state once every seven years.
- Jean provided handouts for Metro's Winter Bash at Powlitski's on January 22nd. She also had advanced tickets for anyone who was interested. The event begins at 7:00; there will be a Coalition meeting at 5:00.
- Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for ABATE U will be on 2/13.

- The next District Meeting will likely take place towards the end of February. All are welcome to attend.
- BOD meeting is next weekend in Mankato. The local chapter's fundraiser will take place that evening.

New Business

1. Officer Nominations

Instructions are that a nominated individual can accept, defer or decline.

Nominations for President

Charlie Hammer nominated Dave Bolduc. Dave accepts.

Three requests for nominations were made. Nominations closed for this meeting.

Nominations for Vice President

Brad Hansen nominated Bob McChesney. Bob accepts.

Bob McChesney nominated Jim Palmer. Jim declines.

Three requests for nominations were made. Nominations closed for this meeting.

Nominations for Treasurer

Robbie Provance nominated Toni McChesney. Toni defers and hopes others have interest.

Three requests for nominations were made. Nominations closed for this meeting.

Nominations for Secretary

Scott Lecy nominated Shelly Hansen. Shelly accepts.

Three requests for nominations were made. Nominations closed for this meeting.

Nominations for Chapter Rep

Dave Bolduc nominated Rick Mallinger. Rick accepts but hopes others have interest.

Toni McChesney nominated Ed Murphy. Ed accepts.

Bob McChesney nominated John Allan. John declines.

Three requests for nominations were made. Nominations closed for this meeting.

Nominations for Sgt @ Arms

Steve Bolduc nominated Mike Bolduc. Mike accepts.

Toni McChesney nominated Scott Lecy. Scott defers.

Rick Mallinger nominated Charlie Hammer. Charlie accepts.

Toni McChesney nominated Jim Palmer. Jim defers.

Mike Bolduc nominated Steve Bolduc. Steve accepts.

Toni McChesney nominated Brad Hansen. Brad defers.

Three requests for nominations were made. Nominations closed for this meeting.

2. John Allan requested a discussion regarding the e-mails that had been floating around this past week to some current and expired chapter members. Based on the flavor of the e-mails it appeared that some old arguments had not been taken care of. There is concern that the chapter could be in jeopardy – would like to see things get ironed out. Jean Afrooz was in attendance today in part for this very reason. Jean met with one person and will meet with all parties involved separately. A suggestion was made that face to face or telephone contact would be better in situations where emotions run high. Tone and intent are up to the reader's discretion in an e-mail. The chapter as a whole would certainly like to put this behind us and get the chapter moving forward again.

A discussion followed regarding e-mails. Jean indicated that e-mail is for conveying information regarding ABATE business and not for other things. Watch communications carefully, keep to the business at hand, and keep it factual. There should be one person in the chapter who is responsible for mass communications and the e-mails should be coming from this person. The e-mail must be factual, not spam, urban legend, etc. These communications carry considerable responsibility as they are representing ABATE.

3. John Allan asked if we were a non-profit organization. We are a not-for-profit. John may have an option for raising funds for the chapter. He will need to look in to this further and if not-for-profit status is acceptable, he can put together a presentation for our next meeting.

Unfinished Business

1. **None**

Committee Reports

1. **Buddy Bears:** Nothing going on with this right now. Hopefully we will be able to make more deliveries before too long.
2. **Fundraiser Committee:** The fundraiser report from our Spaghetti Dinner has been sent in to the state. Toni has the report available for anyone who is interested in taking a look at it. During the sale we sold \$105 of products, received \$105 of direct donation and recruited five new members. We sold \$522 of food, \$98 from the craft and bake sale, \$30 pictures with Santa, \$100 vendor fees. Expenses totaled \$287.40, profits were \$462.60. \$231.30 went to the state, \$231.30 came to the chapter.

Enjoy the City Books – these books were suggested by a committee member. They sell for \$20 per book. Of the \$20, \$8 goes to the chapter, \$12 goes to the company. We were under the impression that whatever we didn't sell we could send back to the company. No money was required up front. We decided to order 150 books and planned to sell them at the spaghetti dinner. When the contract was received we learned we could return just 25% of the books ordered. As such, we scaled our order back to 50 books. Enough books were sold to cover our

required payment and we are now earning pure profit off of the remainder of the books. A question was raised whether the chapter received a fund request for these books. This did not happen, although in hindsight it should have. Although there was no cash outlay required, there was a commitment to sales thus a request to the chapter should have been made. This is a lesson learned and something that will be watched closer in the future.

- 3. Products:** Pins and patches are available today. The state is still looking for a Products person – contact Mack Backlund if interested in this position.

Request for Chapter funds

- 1.** Shelly Hansen put in a request for \$26.40 in postage for the fundraiser. Motion to approve made by John Allan, seconded by Mike Bolduc. All approved, none opposed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by John Allan, seconded by Jim Palmer. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:20pm.