

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road



ABATE of Oregon, Inc.

Member's Handbook

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MISSION STATEMENT

ABATE of Oregon promotes motorcycle awareness, education, safety and liberty through community involvement and legislative action.

Brief History

ABATE (A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments) of Oregon, Inc. was formed in 1975. The very first chairman (Coordinator) was Luke Metcalfe. Although the structure of the organization has evolved over the years, ABATE has always held firm to the principle of freedom of the road and a policy of non-discrimination toward anyone wanting to be a member. Over the years, ABATE has become a very effective political force as well as a nationally acclaimed educational body.

In 1976, the River City Chapter was formed and it was the first outside of Portland. In 1977, ABATE began its first concerted effort to change the helmet law in Oregon. The membership worked hard to give freedom of choice back to motorcyclists in Oregon. At one point, a round-the-clock sit-in and vigil was held at the Capitol. This created a lot of attention and forced the helmet bill out of committee where it passed and was signed into law by Governor Robert Straub.

In 1978, the first Fossil Run was held. Originally a chapter event, the Fossil Run has become one of the largest runs in the Northwest as well as the main fund-raiser for ABATE of Oregon.

In 1979, the first attempt to create a motorcycle training program to teach beginners to ride was proposed by ABATE in the legislature. In 1981, the motorcycle rider training program, which later became Team Oregon, was made into law. This safety and education program was conceived of and made to be by the efforts of ABATE of Oregon, Inc. and other motorcycle riding groups in Oregon. It is now administered by the Oregon Department of Transportation, but it is still one of ABATE's proudest achievements.

In 1988, the state legislature sent a referendum to the voters about mandating helmets, rather than to deal with the issue themselves. This was barely passed by the voters of Oregon in one of the lowest elections turnout in state history. To prevent such things from happening in the future, it was decided that there needed to be a presence in the Capitol during the legislative session. To address this need,

BikePAC was formed as a separate entity in 1989.

In the early 1990s, there were increasing numbers of reports about police using helmets as a tool for harassment. "Illegal" helmet tickets and even confiscation of helmets showed the need to have the helmet law addressed again. Several attempts were made to give adult riders freedom of choice but none were successful.

In 1995, a bill was created at the request of BikePAC to define a legal helmet. ABATE and BikePAC held "Biker's Days" at the Capitol to teach motorcyclists how to directly lobby the legislature. This proved extremely effective and the helmet definition bill passed and was signed by Governor Kitzhaber. It was hoped that this law would eliminate the harassment of motorcyclists by certain law enforcement personnel. However, motorcyclists were still being detained or pulled over just to be checked for "illegal helmets" and reports kept coming in that the harassment was continuing. After a large campaign at Fossil in 1996 by the Oregon State Police to write helmet tickets, ABATE and State Coordinator Larry Schalk filed a class action lawsuit against the Oregon State Police. In 1997 a federal court found that the State Police had interpreted the law incorrectly and could not use helmets as a reason to make a stop.

ABATE of Oregon, Inc. has achieved much for motorcyclists in Oregon since 1975: the Team Oregon training program which gives motorcyclists, both beginner and experienced, the ability to safely improve their skills; the Governor's Motorcycle Safety Advisory Committee, which was created to advise the governor on issues of motorcycle safety; the Motorcycle Awareness Program (MAP) developed by ABATE members to teach young automobile drivers to be aware of motorcycles; many charity events like toy runs which benefit people not directly involved in motorcycling in our communities; and the ongoing battle to enact legislation favorable to motorcyclists and rescind legislation unfavorable to motorcyclists.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Most questions about the day to day operations of ABATE can be answered in the Bylaws. Some of the most common questions involve things like organizational and chapter operations; fundraising; and legislative activities.

What is ABATE?

ABATE is incorporated as a 501 (c) (4) organization which is not operated for profit and is operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare. ABATE's primary purposes includes seeking fair motorcycle legislation; the establishment of education programs to assist all motorcyclists, continued dedication to freedom of the road; the formation of public awareness programs promoting motorcycling; and activities that further the common good and general welfare of the people of the community.

Are my donations to ABATE tax deductible?

Because of ABATE's incorporated status, donations of money, time, materials, etc. are not tax deductible.

How is ABATE money spent?

Income made from events, runs, product sales, advertising, etc. is used for organizational requirements and general costs such as insurance, printing, rent, postage, inventory maintenance, the distribution and dissemination of organizational information, continuing rider and nonrider education programs, plus ongoing legislative support actions.

How much of ABATE's business is private?

All proceedings in ABATE are conducted publicly. All corporate documents are available for viewing by members and all finances, meetings, and motions are open for members to see. Membership information, however, is not published and is only allowed to be used for ABATE business.

There seems to be a lot of emphasis on legislative action, why is that?

Because of the global scope of

increasing restrictions on motorcycling and its associated activities, there is an imperative need for ABATE and its members to become involved in the legislative arena, so as to gain some measure of control over what happens. Because ABATE is dedicated to freedom of the road, we must act!

Another aspect of this involves each member's own political responsibility. Although ABATE members are politically active, it is against the rules governing nonprofit corporations, for our nonprofit organization to lobby for, or to donate to, specific candidates. ABATE members can campaign for issues or ideas, but not candidates or ballot measures. There is no reason why individuals who are members cannot take part in political campaigns or even run for office themselves.

Why does my chapter have to follow the State's policies and procedures? Aren't all chapters autonomous?

It is a common belief that ABATE is a group of individual chapters. It is true that individual chapters do run themselves and have their own treasuries. However, chapters are all part of one legally incorporated organization. Hence, all chapters operate in accordance with the ABATE Bylaws and all other relevant ABATE documents. In the eyes of the law, there is only one statewide organization.

I heard that our chapter doesn't own the property they have. What do they mean by that?

Again, we are one statewide organization. Individual chapters may have some property which belongs to the chapter. This property may be used by the chapter for many years and no one will demand that it be sent to a state event. But any equipment that any individual chapter possesses is returned to the state if the chapter gives up their charter.

What is expected of me as a member?

Go to your chapter meetings; get involved; read the Bylaws; read the newsletter; visit the website; register to vote; and attend events and runs.

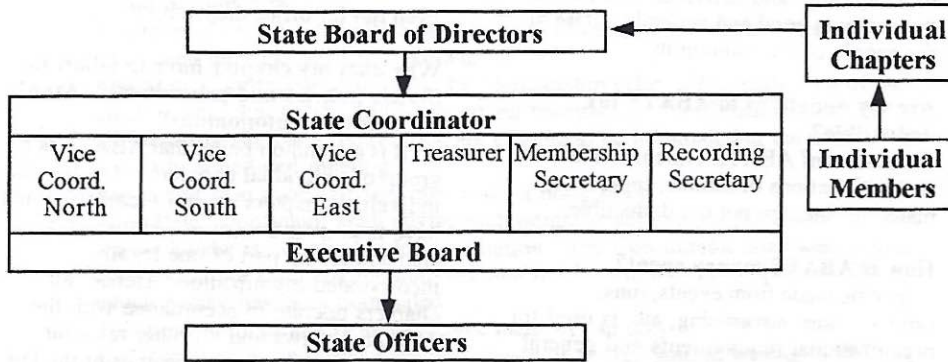
Structure of ABATE of Oregon, Inc.

The structure of ABATE of Oregon, Inc. is simple. (See chart below.) In all cases the chapters follow the same basic structure as the state. It is not required that they do this, as long as the required officers (Coordinator, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, and the State Board Representative, who is actually a Member of the Board of Directors) are present.

The State Coordinator, three Vice-Coordinators, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Membership Secretary comprise the State Executive Board which can make emergency decisions and authorize routine or small expenditures

that cannot wait for the next Board meeting. Other officers include the Legislative Director, Products Director, Education Director, Sergeant-at-Arms, Newsletter Editor, Quartermaster, Chapter Auditor, Public Relations Director, Historian, State Run Coordinator, BikePAC Representative, Web Page Editor and Confederation of Clubs Representative.

More descriptions of these offices can be found in the State Officer Guidelines. It is important to note that no money can be spent, except routine expenses and/or emergencies, without the board of directors' approval.



Directives for actions follow a path from the Board of Directors to the Coordinator. In cases where rapid action is required the Executive Board will vote on behalf of the State Board of Directors. State Officers follow the directives of the State Board of Directors to carry out the Board's wishes.

Bringing an item before the Board of Directors

To have a motion brought before the State Board and voted on, follow this procedure: A concept is brought out at a chapter meeting. If seconded it can be voted on. If passed by the chapter, the chapter will direct their State Board Rep. to bring it to the Board of Directors (State Board) meeting. There, if seconded, it will be discussed and voted on by the Board.

The only people who have a vote at the State Board meeting are the individual chapter Board Representatives that are in compliance with the Bylaws.

State Executive Board Officers cannot vote and cannot act as the Board Rep. for their chapter. Other State Officers, not being Executive Board Officers, can act as the Board Rep. for their chapters and can vote. In case of a tie the presiding officer, usually the Coordinator, will break a tie. If the motion is passed the Coordinator will take action to ensure the directive is complied with. It should not be assumed that all actions have to be started at the individual member level. Many directives are also initiated by State Board Reps. once a need for them is perceived.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Following is a list of the state officers and a general list of their duties:

Coordinator: Oversees the operation of the organization and directs officers, members and chapters to ensure the will of the Board of Directors is carried out.

Vice Coordinator: Assists the Coordinator by carrying out actions delegated by the Coordinator. Also, all three Vice Coordinators have regions of Oregon under them and are responsible for overseeing the chapters within them.

Recording Secretary: Keeps the minutes at the State Board of Directors meeting and ensures that minutes are published in the newsletter.

Treasurer: Keeps the books of the organization and oversees the financial operations of the chapters.

Chapter Auditor: Keeps contact with Chapter Treasurers for reporting of monthly financial reports.

Membership Secretary: Keeps track of membership information such as renewals, and ensuring new members are on the rolls and receiving a newsletter.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Keeps the State meeting in an orderly fashion. Also, is in charge of security at all State events. There are three Sergeants-at-Arms, one for each region.

Legislative Director: Keeps the membership informed on current legislative events which affect the motorcycle riding community. Also, acts as liaison between ABATE and BikePAC.

Education Director: Oversees the education programs in ABATE, such as the Motorcycle Awareness Program taught to Driver Education students.

Newsletter Editor: Responsible for providing a monthly newsletter for mailing to the general membership.

Web Page Editor: Directs and edits the content of ABATE of Oregon's web page on the Internet. The web page is at

<http://www.abateoforegon.org>

Public Relations Director: Works to inform the public and the media of ABATE activities. Also, acts as a liaison to the media.

Historian: Keeps the history of ABATE with scrapbooks containing pictures, old event flyers, etc.

Run Coordinator: Responsible for planning and running all State events, especially Fossil and the Swap Meets.

Products Director: Responsible for the procurement, maintenance, inventory, and record keeping of all ABATE products.

Sanctioning Officer: Responsible for the proper sanctioning of all ABATE events.

Quartermaster: Responsible for the procurement, purchase, maintenance, inventory and record keeping of the entirety of ABATE properties.

EVENTS

The State Board of Directors meets the second Saturday of each month. All members are encouraged to attend.

STEAM (Seminar to Train, Educate, And Motivate) is held early in the year at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. This free seminar has classes which can benefit all members. It is especially useful for chapter officers to learn how things operate.

Fossil Campout - Happens over Memorial Day Weekend in May every year near Fossil, Oregon.

ABATE Swap Meets - Are scheduled to occur twice a year.

Annual Meeting - Held in December in conjunction with the elections for new State officers at the December State Board meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Chapter Runs and Events - Information about these events can be found in the State Newsletter or on the State Website.

A.B.A.T.E. OF OREGON, INC.

BYLAWS

Amended 4 December, 2000

ARTICLE I NAME

- A. The corporation hereinafter referred to as ABATE, is legally known as A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon, Inc. which stands for: A BROTHERHOOD AGAINST TOTALITARIAN ENACTMENTS and its duration shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE II JURISDICTION

- A. ABATE shall:
1. Have jurisdiction of all members, chapters and use of name and logo within the state of Oregon.
 2. Maintain equitable relations between all its members and chapters.
 3. Assure the democratic right to assemble, voice opinions and take action on matters of mutual interest to motorcyclists.

ARTICLE III PURPOSE

- A. ABATE shall be organized and operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare. Subject to the limitations stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the purposes of this corporation shall be to engage in any lawful activities, none of which are for profit, for which corporations may be organized under Chapter 65 of the Oregon Revised Statutes (or its corresponding future provisions) and 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or its corresponding future provisions).
- B. ABATE's primary purposes shall be:
1. Dedication to freedom of the road.
 2. Education programs to assist all motorcyclists, especially the young and/or novice riders, to reduce accidents and to improve rider skills.
 3. Public awareness programs promoting motorcycling.
 4. Fair motorcycle legislation.
- C. ABATE of Oregon promotes motorcycle awareness, education, safety and liberty through community involvement and legislative action.

ARTICLE IV ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- A. The structure of ABATE shall consist of the following:
1. Membership
 2. Chapters
 3. State Board of Directors
 4. Committees
 5. State Executive Board

ARTICLE V
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Eligibility

- A. There is only one qualification for membership, that being the payment of dues established by the State Board of Directors. No group or class is required to join. No group or class is denied membership.

Section 2 - Application

- A. Membership in ABATE shall be obtained and maintained through application to ABATE.
- B. Each application for membership shall be accompanied by dues established by the State Board of Directors and submitted to the State Membership Secretary.
- C. Memberships are non-assessable, non-transferable, non-assignable and non-refundable.
- D. Each member will decide which Chapter they want to belong to, or may decide to be a Member-At-Large (Indian Creek).
- E. ABATE membership records will remain confidential, and will be used ONLY for ABATE purposes.

Section 3 - Transfer

- A. The transfer of membership from any Chapter to the jurisdiction of another Chapter, shall be in writing to the State Membership Secretary.
- B. The transfer of Chapter membership must be registered with the Membership Secretary of the Chapter receiving the member and with the State Membership Secretary to acquire voting rights in the Chapter transferred to.

Section 4 - Duties of the Members

It shall be the duty of each member of ABATE to:

- A. Abide by the A.B.A.T.E of Oregon, Inc. BYLAWS.
- B. Conduct him/herself in keeping with the traditions and principles of the organization with respect to his/her fellow members, the community, its laws, and the good name of A.B.A.T.E of Oregon, Inc.
- C. Bring to the attention of the State Board of Directors presiding officer any activity that is not in the best interest of ABATE.

Section 5 - Termination of Membership

- A. Membership in ABATE will be terminated upon death, written request from the member, nonpayment of dues, theft of ABATE assets, or by decision of the State Board of Directors.

Section 6 - Annual Meeting

- A. The annual meeting of the Corporation shall be held in December with the date, time and place to be determined by the Board of Directors.
 - 1. Notice of such meeting, describing the date, time and place, shall be delivered to the Membership by means of the newsletter, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.
 - 2. The Board of Directors is authorized to set an alternative date, time and place for the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI
CHAPTERS

Section 1 - To receive a Charter as a Chapter in ABATE a group must:

- A. Have ten (10) paid-up members.
- B. Elect from those paid-up members a Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and one (1) State Representative.
- C. Make application to the State Board of Directors for a Charter.

Section 2 - To remain as a Chapter in ABATE the Chapter must:

- A. Abide by the ABATE BYLAWS, the State Guidelines for Forming a New Chapter, the ABATE Financial Policies and Procedures, the ABATE Media Guidelines, the ABATE Event Sanctioning Guidelines and any other ABATE documents that are relevant to Chapter operations or the corresponding future provisions of the aforementioned items.
- B. Abide by the decisions rendered by the State Board of Directors.
- C. Send copies of Chapter minutes to the State Coordinator within seven (7) days of the Chapter meeting.
- D. Ensure the participation of Chapter State Representatives at State Board of Directors' meetings, unless excused by the State Coordinator.
- E. Submit a monthly Chapter report to the State Newsletter by the 10th of each month.
- F. Any Chapter in noncompliance with any of the aforementioned items for over:
 1. Thirty (30) days, will be put on probationary status.
 2. Sixty (60) days, will not be allowed to vote at the State Board Meeting.
 3. Ninety (90) days, action will be taken to revoke the Chapter's Charter.
- G. The Charter of any Chapter may be terminated upon receipt of a written request by the Chapter's Coordinator, delivered by a Chapter Representative to the State Board of Directors. The State Board of Directors has the final authority in this matter.

ARTICLE VII
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The State Board of Directors will be the governing body of ABATE and will meet at a time and place to be determined by the State Executive Board.
- B. The State Board of Directors will be composed of one State Representative elected by each Chapter, which will constitute the voting membership of the State Board of Directors.
- C. The term of office for a Director is one (1) year.
- D. Director resignations or vacancies will be filled by election by the responsible Chapter.
- E. A majority of the State Board of Directors must be present and eligible to vote, to constitute a quorum.
- F. The State Board of Directors will use Robert's Rules of Order as a guideline to conduct meetings.
- G. Motions brought before the State Board of Directors which will directly affect the general membership will be referred to the Chapters for discussion and voted on at the next State Board of Directors meeting, unless a delay in voting will cause a disruption in the transaction of business by the organization.
 1. Only a Director may bring a motion before the State Board of Directors.
 2. Any member in good standing may draft or originate a motion.

- H. No Director shall receive payment for services rendered/provided to ABATE.
- I. There shall be no voting by proxy.
- J. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at the time and place to be determined by the Board of Directors.
 - 1. Notice of such meetings, describing the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting, shall be delivered to each Director not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting, by means of voice, mail or electronic devices.
- K. Any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors may allow the usage of telecommunication devices to enable remotely located Directors to participate in the meeting, so long as all parties can hear each other.

ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEES

- A. The State Board of Directors may establish such other committees as it deems necessary and desirable. Such committees may exercise functions of the Board of Directors or may be advisory committees.
- B. Any committee that exercises any function of the Board of Directors shall have a minimum of one (1) Director or one (1) State Officer as part of the committee's composition.
- C. A quorum at a Committee meeting exercising Board functions shall be a majority of all Committee members present before the meeting begins.
- D. No committee may authorize payment of any part of the income or profit of the corporation to its directors or officers; may approve dissolution, merger, or the sale, pledge or transfer of all or substantially all of the corporation's assets; may elect, appoint, or remove directors or fill vacancies on the board or any of its committees; nor may adopt, amend, or repeal the Articles, Bylaws, or any resolution by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX STATE OFFICERS

Section 1 - State Executive Board (required positions)

- A. Coordinator
- B. Vice-Coordinator (1 to 3 positions as required)
- C. Treasurer
- D. Membership Secretary
- E. Recording Secretary

Section 2 - Other Officer Positions

- A. Other State officer positions, not being Executive Board positions, may exist or be created as authorized by the State Executive Board and Board of Directors.

Section 3 - Duties

- A. All State officers are to abide by the State Officer Guidelines, ABATE BYLAWS, and any other relevant ABATE documents in the performance of their offices.
- B. No State officer shall receive payment for services rendered/provided to ABATE.

Section 4 - Authority

- A. The State Executive Board, by simple majority, has the authority to:
 - 1. Issue statements on the behalf of the organization.

2. Expend funds.
3. Take any action deemed necessary to accomplish the goals of the organization.

Section 5 - Elections and Vacancies

- A. The election of State Officers shall be held at the last meeting of each year by the voting membership of the State Board of Directors.
- B. The number of State Officers shall be at least, but not limited to, five (5).
- C. Vacancies of State Officer positions may be filled by appointment by the State Coordinator, pending ratification at the next State Board Meeting, by the State Board of Directors.

Section 6 - Rules and Dates

- A. The nomination and election of State Officers shall be conducted under the supervision of the State Coordinator. The State Coordinator shall have the authority and responsibility to see that nominations are conducted in accordance with these BYLAWS, with reasonable opportunity for each Director to vote.
- B. All questions concerning the conduct and challenges of elections shall be determined by the Executive Board, subject to the right of appeal by the Board of Directors.
- C. The term of each elected office shall be one (1) year, or until their successors have been duly elected and qualified.
- D. The State Coordinator will notify the Membership prior to November 1st of the election year that he/she will be receiving nominations for all offices, and that all Members eligible to hold office are eligible to be nominated at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- E. Any member in good standing may make a nomination.
- F. The State Coordinator shall advise each nominee not eligible for election of the reason he/she is not eligible for nomination. The Coordinator shall also obtain assurance from each eligible nominee that he/she will accept the position for which he/she has been nominated.
- G. The nomination of an eligible absentee member can only occur when the absentee member indicates their acceptance of nomination, in writing to the State Coordinator.
- H. Only Members in good standing shall be eligible to vote or hold office.
- I. No elected Officer shall qualify to take office unless and until he/she meets the qualifications/requirements, set forth in these BYLAWS.
- J. All elected Officers will assume office on the first meeting in January.

ARTICLE X
GRIEVANCES

Section 1 - Procedure

- A. Member complaints, disputes, dissatisfaction, problems and etc., with or about ABATE, shall be handled as follows:
 1. The interested parties are urged to talk to each other with a view towards agreement, resolution or compromise.
 2. If necessary, the interested parties can present the issue at hand to the Chapter for discussion and possible handling.
 3. If conditions warrant it, the interested parties can request a hearing before the State Board of Directors.
 4. The State Board of Directors has the final authority in resolving grievances.

ARTICLE XI
DISCIPLINE

Section 1 - Procedure

- A. In the event that a Member of ABATE acts in such a way as to cause damage to ABATE, its Chapters, its Officers or its Members, a complaint may be lodged with a member of the State Executive Board.
 1. The State Executive Board will determine if there is merit to the complaint, and if so will initiate disciplinary procedure.
 2. Disciplinary actions may be one or more of the following:
 - a. A verbal warning or discussion.
 - b. A written reprimand.
 - c. Suspension
 3. The affected Member can request a hearing before the State Board of Directors.
 4. The State Board of Directors has the final authority as regards disciplinary actions. (as per Article V, Sec. 5A)

ARTICLE XII
FINANCES

- A. The fiscal year of ABATE shall be January 1 through December 31.
- B. All funds obtained from membership fees, donations and organizational benefits shall be used for:
 1. Rider and non-rider education.
 2. Distribution or dissemination of organizational information.
 3. Legislative action.
 4. Organizational requirements and general costs incurred in the operation of the organization itself, none of which shall go to any member or officer with the exception of reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenditures directly related to ABATE activities authorized by the State Board of Directors and/or the State Executive Board.

ARTICLE XIII
AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

- A. These Bylaws may be amended by the Board of Directors by a majority of directors present, if a quorum is present.
- B. Notice of proposed changes to the Bylaws must appear in the State Newsletter before being voted on by the State Board of Directors.

Addendum:

Articles of Incorporation history:
established 8/22/1975
amended 9/27/84

Bylaw history: established 8/26/1975, ratified 1/3/77
amended 5/9/78, ratified 11/13/78
amended 10/93, ratified 11/1/93
amended 11/95, ratified 1/13/96
amended 12/4/00, ratified 2/10/01

Rules of Operation history:

established 7/1/1980

amended in 4/83, 4/84, 4/86, 6/89, 11/93, 1/96

12/4/00 - included in the amended Bylaws of 12/4/00

BYLAWS Effective **10 Feb. 2001** ,

as approved by the A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon, Inc. Board of Directors.

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road



ABATE of Oregon, Inc.

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