

# ABATE News

By Jim Page

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## Isn't it about time you joined an MRO?

I know, I know I've heard all of the excuses. I'm not a joiner. I'm independent; I don't want to be affiliated with anyone. I'm a member of HOG, they'll watch out for my rights. (They will not!) I'm not political.

I wear a helmet, I don't care if they pass a helmet law or not. Or even, I ride a sport bike. The concerns of you old geezers on your Harleys, don't concern me. (Yes, I have heard that one.)

First of all, there is a whole lot more going on than helmet laws. Did you know that you pay an extra dollar on your motorcycle registration that goes into the Motorcycle Safety Fund? Until the MRO's got involved, that money went into the general fund. It was used (Amongst other things) to pay the salary of DPS. The MRO's lobbied to create a dedicated fund for motorcycle safety. They also helped to create the Motorcycle Safety Advisory Council that advises the Governor's Office of Highway Safety on how to spend that money. Wouldn't you like to have a say in how your money is spent?

There are a myriad of laws, rules and regulations that affect all motorcyclists and more coming. Some of the things we are working on now are, noise ordinances, health insurance issues, highway construction and right to repair. Oh, and if you live in Maricopa county, Aren't you proud that you live in the only county in the united states that forces you to have your motorcycle tested at the emissions station. Even California has refused to test bikes as they have found the test unreliable. Think about that the next time you sitting in line at the emissions station in 100 degree temps. Some of the fights we will have in the future are, tamper proof bikes that you will have to take to a dealership to have it fixed. There will be bans on aftermarket pipes and other performance enhancing modifications. Why every small shop and aftermarket business isn't supporting MRO's is beyond me.

There will be size and power restrictions. Did you know that some cities have considered a ban of sport bikes on city streets? So much for the old geezers eh?

For over twenty years there have been Motorcyclists Rights Organizations fighting for your rights. The sad part is most of you reading this will use one of the excuses above not to help. There are over 150,000 registered motorcycles in Arizona. If all of those bike owners plunked down the price of a good stogie or a couple of drinks at your favorite watering hole, and joined a MRO, nobody would even be considering some of the regulations that I have mentioned.

Feel free to call with any Questions,

**Jim Page / President**