

A.B.A.T.E.



**OF
ILLINOIS**

CHAPTER SUGGESTION

GUIDELINE

REVISED 2019

A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education: A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc. is to preserve the universal right to a safe, unrestricted, motorcycling environment, and to propose and advocate actions that can be taken by elected and appointed officials to protect and conserve the natural resources of the State of Illinois, and insure through professional management that sustainable use, recreational opportunities and enjoyment of these resources is available for this and future generations.

To fulfill this mission, we will: Safeguard the rights of all motorcyclists, Endorse safety programs and educational programs. Promote unity through involvement, Advocate political awareness and activism.

So says the legalese at the beginning of our by-laws; but what does it mean? The bottom line is, A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc. is a Motorcycle Rights Organization. Yes, we do charitable work. What better way to promote motorcycling and a positive image of motorcyclists to the rest of the world? Yes, we educate; we educate our members on the merits of taking the motorcycle safety courses offered by IDOT. We educate anyone who will listen to be aware of motorcycles, both through individual effort through our Safety and Awareness Program. We also educate legislators that laws, which discriminate against motorcyclists, and motorcycling are unacceptable. On civic level we encourage all A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc. members to be not only registered, but active voters. We also believe that all citizens should be active in their communities.

MEMBERSHIP DUTIES:

Aside from being required to be a paid member, members are strongly encouraged to:

1. Be registered and active voter.
2. Attend all appropriate A.B.A.T.E. meetings.
3. Consider becoming Chapter/State Officer.
4. Become active in A.B.A.T.E. programs (Legislative, Safety and Awareness).
5. Support A.B.A.T.E. fund raisers (Bike Raffle, local).
6. Attend A.B.A.T.E. events (Freedom Rally, Seminar, State Party).
7. Support A.B.A.T.E. Political Action Committees (State & Federal).
8. Promote A.B.A.T.E. membership to others.
9. Become active in politics.
10. Become active in National Motorcycle Rights Organizations (Motorcycle Riders Foundation, American Motorcycle Association).

CHAPTER DUTIES:

Each chapter will begin with and maintain a membership of no less than 25 members in good standing, and will maintain a board of directors, which shall be made up of the following officers: (the duties listed are a minimum, they may be expanded).

PRESIDENT: to conduct meetings, oversee chapter business operating the chapter within and in accordance to chapter by-laws and the by-laws of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc. To communicate A.B.A.T.E. goals effectively to the chapter, the public in a professional and businesslike manner, and ensure that all board position duties, are being fulfilled in the best interest of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc. Should be acquainted with Robert's Rules of Order and use them when appropriate. It shall be the duty of the

Chapter President to assure that all chapter events are properly insured. It is the duty of the Chapter President to assure that someone is representing the chapter at all meetings of the State Board of Directors.

VICE PRESIDENT: To conduct meetings and A.B.A.T.E. business in the absence of the President. Also, to take such responsibilities as the chapter and the President may assign. Should possess the ability to communicate effectively to the chapter, and the public the goals of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc. in a professional and businesslike manner. Should be acquainted with Robert's Rules of Order and help assure that the chapter business is in accordance with chapter by-laws and by-laws of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc.

SECRETARY: To take and record the minutes of the membership/chapter meetings. To update, protect the chapter's records and properties. To submit a list of names, addresses and phone numbers of chapter officers to the state office after chapter elections. To submit schedule of events planned by the chapter to the state office. To assure chapter business within chapter by-laws and the by-laws of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc.

TREASURER: To cooperate in full with the State Treasurer. To assure that all monies due to the State are forwarded to the state office in a timely manner (recommended with 30 days of receipt at the chapter level). To ensure that all tax forms (990's to the state Treasurer filled out correctly), and financial statements are produced in accordance with State and Federal laws required as an organization. This means that all forms are to be to the State Treasurer no later than January 31. Chapter Treasurer is to conduct chapter financial affairs in accordance with the chapter by-laws and the by-laws of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc.

LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR: To communicate and cooperate with the State Legislative Coordinator to accomplish the goals of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc. To work with area politicians to gain support for A.B.A.T.E. positions. To communicate to the chapter, and the public positions of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc. To ensure all political endorsements are in accordance with the A.B.A.T.E. PAC, A.B.A.T.E. FEDPAC policy set forth by the voter's guide.

SAFETY & AWARENESS COORDINATOR: To communicate and cooperate with the State Safety & Awareness Coordinator to accomplish the goals of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc. To promote to the schools, the membership, and the public A.B.A.T.E.'s Motorcycle Awareness Program. To assure that the proper reports are forwarded to the Safety & Awareness Coordinator for all program presentations. To promote to the membership and the public Rider Education Program offered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

STATE BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: (May be filled by any previously listed officer). To attend all state Board meetings. To report to the chapter on business transacted, decisions made at those meetings, and questions that the board has sent to the chapter for consideration. To be prepared, through knowledge of chapter sentiment to vote on issues that may need an immediate decision by the Board of Directors.

SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL OFFICERS: Membership Coordinator, Activities Coordinator, Public Relations Coordinator, Newsletter Coordinator, Products, Coordinator, any assistants to any of the above.

All officers are expected to cooperate with the corresponding State office and carry out the duties associated with their office to the best of their ability.

The chapters are the regional functioning body of the State organization, and are expected to run in accordance with the by-laws of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc.

Chapter efforts and monies are to be used to promote Motorcycle Safety, Motorcyclists Rights and the growth of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc.

No chapter shall engage in fundraising activities designed to promote an organization engaged in support of viewpoints which oppose the stated mission goals of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc.

Upon payment of dues by a new member, the chapter is to send in the application with payment to the State office who will then provide the new member with all the membership benefits. The chapter will supply a receipt to the member of payment. This needs to be sent to the State Office within 30 days for process.

No chapter shall endorse or promote any political candidate outside of those endorsed by the A.B.A.T.E. PAC OR FEDPAC.

No chapter will be permitted to promote practices or products that would be detrimental to the reputation of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc.

There shall be no back patches (Colors) produced, distributed or worn bearing the name of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc. Colors shall include any patch, airbrushing or silk-screening that include upper/lower "rockers" (aka "banners).

The Executive Board of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois, Inc. must approve all designs. Appeal to the State Board of Directors is permitted upon disapproval.

All chapters should write a monthly article for the State Newsletter.

It is suggested that each chapter hold at least one fundraising event each year for the chapter, one for the State organization, one for A.B.A.T.E. PAC and one for FEDPAC (following federal guidelines of record keeping of donations made).

It is also suggested that the chapter support the Motorcycle Riders Foundation to the best of their ability.

Chapters should help promote member participation in State and Regional events and A.B.A.T.E. and MRF sponsored programs as well as those sponsored by other Motorcyclists' Rights Organizations.

MOST IF NOT ALL OF THESE ARE LISTED IN THE A.B.A.T.E. OF ILLINOIS, INC. BY-LAWS AND POLICIES & PROCESURES FOR THE ORGANIZATION.