

ABATE of Florida, Inc. • Polk County Chapter

The Iron Press

DEDICATED TO FREEDOM OF THE ROAD - LET THOSE WHO RIDE DECIDE

February 2019

Vol 36 issue 2

chapter Meeting – Feb. 17@1:00pm



American **B**ikers **A**imed **T**oward **E**ducation

Our Mission Statement: WHO WE ARE

ABATE is a non-profit organization of motorcycle enthusiast from all walks of life. We lobby and educate the government and general public to promote motorcycling in a safe and positive image. We endeavor to enlist the cooperation and participation of all organizations and individuals that share a similar interest in preserving our American tradition of Freedom. We promote motorcycle safety, training & political awareness. We ARE NOT A CLUB OR A GANG. We fund our work through toy runs, poker runs, campouts, and other motorcycle activities. We are your neighbors and friends who work, pay taxes, and get involved with our community. We serve and support our country and believe in freedom. We use all legal means to protect our rights without infringing on the rights of others.

- 🏍️ ABATE of Florida, Inc. is incorporated under the laws of Florida as a motorcycle rights organization or a "MRO".
- 🏍️ ABATE of Florida, Inc. currently is the only political MRO in Florida representing the interests of its members and the motorcycling public at large.
- 🏍️ ABATE of Florida, Inc. is dedicated to securing and protecting the rights of all motorcyclists in the state

ABATE'S Objectives are to:

- 🏍️ Keep all bikers informed on legislative actions and events that affect their safety and rights.
- 🏍️ Be a powerful political force in legislation that affects Motorcycle safety and rights.
- 🏍️ Provide a lobbyist that will represent ABATE interests at State and National levels.
- 🏍️ Promote voter registration and to motivate members to speak up for their rights.
- 🏍️ Promote safety without infringing on individual rights and freedoms.
- 🏍️ Educate the public and Motorcycle Awareness and safety Issues.

ABATE's Accomplishments:

- 🏍️ ABATE was the driving force behind the changes in Florida's Helmet Law. Florida Motorcyclist, over the age of 21 and who carry at least \$10,000 medical insurance coverage now enjoy the Freedom to Choose whether to wear a helmet or not.
- 🏍️ ABATE has developed & copyrighted "The Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Program" (MSAP). The program is presented to non-motorcyclists to educate them on how to safely share the road with motorcycles. It is taught in local schools & to civic organizations at no charge in the hope of reducing motorcycle accidents and deaths through education, not legislation.
- 🏍️ ABATE had gained a positive and respected position in Tallahassee. Because of our Lobbyist and Legislative efforts, State Representatives are aware of ABATE members and our vigilant quest.
- 🏍️ ABATE reminds travelers every day to "Look Twice Save a Life, Motorcycles are everywhere" through our billboard campaign.
- 🏍️

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of ABATE of Polk County Chapter or ABATE of Florida Inc. This newsletter encourages all members to submit ABATE related material, photos, events, and commentaries, etc. ABATE of Florida, Inc. and the Polk County Chapter of ABATE accepts no responsibility for the comments, views or opinions contained in the newsletter. Polk County Chapter reserves the right to edit or omit any article submitted for publication. All materials submitted to Polk County Chapter for use in this letter becomes property of the chapter.

Guidelines for Submissions

Members are asked to submit articles, photos and other materials that would be of interest to their fellow members by 11:00pm on Friday following the Meeting. All board members are encouraged to submit their articles as soon as possible following the monthly meeting. Please do not submit slanderous or accusing letters, profanity or nudity.

Identification Statement

ABATE of Florida, Inc.
Polk County Chapter
PO Box 2743
Lakeland, FL 33806



Board Officers

State

Position	Name	Email
President	James "Doc" Reichenbach	statepresident@abateflorida.com
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Polk County Chapter

Position	Name	Phone	Email
President	Mark "Zman" Zinser	863-559-9550	president1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com
Vice President	Greg Vernon	863-934-9719	vicepresident1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com
Secretary	Laneata "Lo" McDermott	863-688-3161	secretary1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com
Treasurer	Rawson (Rusty) Goff	813-426-5171	treasurer1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com
Sgt. at Arms	Tim "Roadmap" McDermott	863-688-3161	Delegates1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com
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Safety	George Swatzbaugh	410-852-6663	Safety2.polkcountyabate@gmail.com
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Delegates	Tim "Roadmap" McDermott	863-688-3161	Delegates1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com
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President



Hey y'all and hope all is well for my fellow ABATEers! First thing to talk about is our chapter won a contest involving all chapters, with the prize being a gun (which we will use in our annual gun give away). We haven't decided on what type for sure, but last year the AR 15 was sure popular!! Should have more info at next meeting. We had an Officers Meeting and the main discussion was our Skills On Wheels Motorcycle Rodeo. We had volunteers to be responsible for the various duties / jobs needed to make this happen. So if you're asked to help out with a particular need, please consider helping out. Our Chapter is very good about that anyhow. We decided to have another Officers Meeting at noon before the Chapter Meeting (Feb 17) to discuss progress made, issues to address, and anything involving the Rodeo. Like our Toy Run, we want to make this the best one yet!

Another event to discuss is the Annual Ride to Tallahassee to be visible to our Representatives and meet them with our concerns. After all, that is why ABATE exists, as a Political Rights Organization. We have a lot of reasons to be concerned, such as every year a helmet law is brought up, texting while driving, motorcycles being vulnerable road users, ethanol in gas, and so on. We have our own Lobbyist to help our causes, and a bunch of bikers showing up at the Capital is not just impressive, but makes a bigger impact with the politicians. The meeting with our representatives is April 15 (yeah, tax day), and our chapter has a plan to make it a whole weekend deal, leaving Saturday morning and coming back Monday afternoon. If you're considering going or just want more info on this ride get with "Roadmap" or Dewey, our Delegates, each of them having gone numerous times. The sooner you decide the better, as motel rooms need to be reserved.

That's it for this month.....RIDE SAFE AND ENJOY....Zman

Vice-President



No Submission

Secretary



THANK YOU TO today's meeting attendees: Lo Alexander, GK Swatzbaugh III Stacks, Mark Zinser Z Man, John T. McDermott Roadmap, Rawson Goff Rusty, Ralph Snearly, Kyra Waldron, Renee Meyer Li'l Foot, John Tardy, Gary Saunders, Tammy Saunders, Dewey Cain, Mike Harmon, Al Haines, Rick Lock, Muff McLeod, Juan Gonzalez, Cecil Mitchell, Marcus Hotelling, Xena Hale, Jeannie Parnell, Brad Stryker, Monica Maag, Antonio Gonzalez Tony, Steve Ammerman, David Waldron

1:00p The Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence were led by President, Z Man who welcomed everyone. The discussion centered around the next gun raffle. Very popular.

VP, Greg Vernon was absent and excused.

Secretary, Lo Alexander thanked everyone for coming out and signing in. There were no corrections noted to last month's minutes. Steve moved to accept them as read and Roadmap seconded. MOTION PASSED

Treasurer, Rawson Goff had to leave for work but came early to take care of ABATE business.

Sargent @ Arms, Tim McDermott discussed the Freedom Ride. [Maybe talk to the new Gov.] Tallahassee April 15

Membership, Ralph Snearly said that we were 188 in Nov. From now on, each new member will get a packet.

Products, Ralph Snearly has some older products here. See Ralph. The catalogue is on line.

Safety Officer, GK warned us to be careful of gasoline additives.

PR, Kyra Waldron praised the LPD for their efforts during the TOY RUN. They escorted us all the way to The Boondocks. We sent them a card.

Legislation, Z Man informed us that the US Senate voted against profiling! Arizona bikers can ride helmetless; but they must buy PERMITS. Excess noise in California will get you a ticket. See Z Man's article in this newsletter.

Webmaster, Steve Ammerman will handle the online publicity for The Skills on Wheels Motorcycle RODEO which will be APRIL 11, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS: Start now on the RODEO.

Good of the Order: Marcus and Monica of Vintage Chapter dropped by to invite us to their chili cook off this Sat. @ 11a in St. Augustine.....Gerry gets a benefit. Feb. 2 from 1p –5p at The Boondocks.....THE WRETCHED FEW VMC will hold a poker run to benefit Veterans with mental health issues. Every day 22 Veterans take their lives. Registration @ MJC Classic Cars, 355 S. Lake Parker Av. Lakeland. Door prizes and raffle, \$20 per bike \$5 passenger. February 16.The 22nd. Annual Freedom Rights Rally. We ride up Sat. April 13th.; Go to the State ABATE meeting on Sun.; Mon. RIDE to the Capital, Park in the courtyard, we'll have our brief ceremony; then go in and MINGLE.....This Memorial Day will be the LAST for ROLLING THUNDER. It's going to reorganize. And finally, Happy New Year. Good luck with your projects and health concerns. Thank you, Boondocks and Ginny, for friendly and excellent hospitality all the time.

Adjourn: 1:33p Steve moved. Many seconded. MOTION PASSED

Sgt. of Arms

Not too much to report, everybody that can set your calendars for our ride to Tally on April 13, 2019. We will ride up on the 13th, have our state meeting Sunday the 14th, then ride to the Capitol on Monday the 15th. This is our most important ride of the year. We all stand together for Motorcyclist Rights in our state Capitol. We need all the support we can get, so bring all your family and friends, the more the better. There are 2 motels that we usually stay at, Days Inn @ 866-264-5744 or The Super 8 @ 866-267-9053. Both are located in Monticello and very reasonable. We will talk further at our chapter meeting, that's all for now. Ride Safe, Ride Daily, Roadmap



Membership/Products

Membership

As of last State report we have 188 members.

Thank you in advance...



Due in February: Kevin Cullison, James Hill, Dennis Reeves, Greg Vernon, Charles Wallner, Dan Webb, Dick Williamson, Z-Man

Due in March: Deb Daggett, William Ford, James Griffin, Michael Howington, Robert Lewis, Jeffrey Schilling and John Tardy

Please renew a month early to avoid expiring and losing your years of continuous membership.

Dues can be paid at our Chapter meeting or mailed to ABATE, Polk County Chapter PO Box 2743 Lakeland, FL 33806

If you have not updated your contact information recently, did not receive your renewal notice or are a new or renewing member and haven't received your membership card, please email me at membershipabatepolk@hotmail.com or call 863-206-9028.

Thanks, Ralph

Products

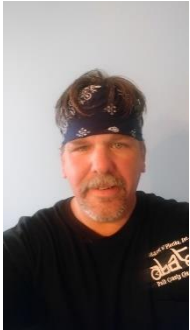
We have been working with the printer to design a new/old chapter logo, I'll post when available.

We have small patches, caps, license plates, "Biker Lives Matter" t-shirts (smaller than 2x) and pins available. Also available are Toy Run t-shirts in large, x-large and 3x-large. If you have any questions or would like to order any product you can email me at rsnearly@tampabay.rr.com or call 863-206-9028.

State products are available to view on their website @ www.abateflorida.com.

Ralph

Safety



No submission

Legislative



There is one thing that you can do now to help our Vulnerable Road User Bill be more successful, We need to get more Legislators to sign on as Co-Sponsors to both our Bills.

Please reach out to your Legislators and ask them to co-sponsor our bills. It is a simple request and it would really help to give the Bills a push that we need to get through the committee process.

Please ask you House Representative to co-sponsor HB 71 by Rep. McClain

Please ask your Senators to co-sponsor SB 158 by Sen. Baxley

Both Bills are titled "Traffic Offenses"

Co-sponsoring a Bill does not count against how many Bills that they can have and it is something that they can easily do.

At this writing the Senate Bill has NO co-sponsors and the House Bill has two co-sponsors. Let's see if we can get those numbers higher and really help our Bills get into law,

Thank you,

--

Darrin "Scribe" Brooks
State Vice President
State Legislative Trustee,
ABATE of Florida, Inc. www.abateflorida.com

HB 2001 "ABATE of Florida, Inc. Motorcycle Safety Awareness Program" has been assigned to its committees.

1st = Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee
Trumbull, Jay (R) - Chair
Drake, Brad (R) - Vice Chair

Watson, Barbara (D) - Ranking Democrat
DuBose, Bobby B. [D]
Fetterhoff, Elizabeth Anne [R]
Geller, Joseph [D]
Ingoglia, Blaise [R]
Leek, Thomas J. "Tom" [R]
Mariano, Amber [R]
Rodriguez, Anthony [R]
Smith, David [R]
Willhite, Matt [D]

2nd - Appropriations Committee

Cummings, Travis (R) - Chair
Eagle, Dane (R) - Vice Chair
McGhee, Kionne (D) - Ranking Democrat
Avila, Bryan [R]
Byrd, Cord [R]
Diamond, Ben [D]
DuBose, Bobby B. [D]
Duran, Nicholas X. [D]
Fine, Randy [R]
Geller, Joseph [D] Jacobs, Kristin Diane [D] Jenne, Evan [D] La Rosa, Mike [R] Latvala, Chris [R] Leek, Thomas J. "Tom" [R] Magar, MaryLynn "ML" [R] Massullo, MD, Ralph E. [R] Pigman, Cary [R] Plakon, Scott [R] Plasencia, Rene "Coach P" [R]
Raschein, Holly [R]
Renner, Paul [R]
Rodrigues, Ray Wesley [R]
Smith, Carlos Guillermo [D]
Sprowls, Chris [R]
Stark, Richard [D]
Trumbull, Jay [R]
Watson, Barbara [D]
Williamson, Jay [R]
Yarborough, Clay [R]
This is the Bill that would put the Safety money into ABATE of Florida's name.

Please check to see if your local legislator is on any of the committees and contact them asking for their support.

HB 71 Traffic Offenses has just been given it's committee assignments.

1st = Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee.

Rep. Brad Drake - Chair
Rep. Colleen Burton - Vice Chair
Altman, Thad [R]
Caruso, Michael A. "Mike" [R]
Driskell, Fentrice [D]
Hart, Dianne "Ms Dee" [D]
Hattersley, Adam Roger [D]
McClain, Stan [R] ***** Sponsor of HB 71 *****
Overdorf, Tobin Rogers "Toby" [R]
Payne, Bobby [R]
Polsky, Tina Scott [D]
Ponder, Mel [R]
Roth, Rick [R]
Stone, Charlie [R]
Thompson, Geraldine F. "Geri"
2nd = Criminal Justice Subcommittee

Rep. James Grant - Chair
Rep. Stan McClain - Vice Chair ***** Sponsor of HB 71*****
Bush III, Dr. James [D]
Donalds, Byron [R]
Eagle, Dane [R]
Fernandez-Barquin, Juan Alfonso [R]
Fitzenhagen, Heather [R]
Gottlieb, Michael "Mike" [D]
Grieco, Michael "Mike" [D]
Hattersley, Adam Roger [D]
Roach, Spencer [R]
Robinson, Jr., William Cloud "Will" [R]
Sabatini, Anthony [R]
Santiago, David [R]
Webb, Jennifer Necole [D]
3rd - State Affairs Committee
Rep. Blaise Ingoglia - Chair
Rep. Scott Plankton - Vice Chair
Clemons, Sr., Charles Wesley "Chuck" [R]
DiCeglie, Nick [R]
Drake, Brad [R]
DuBose, Bobby B. [D]
Good, Margaret [D]
Grall, Erin [R]
Hart, Dianne "Ms Dee" [D]
Hattersley, Adam Roger [D]
Latvala, Chris [R]
McClain, Stan [R] ***** Sponsor of HB 71 *****
McClure, Lawrence [R]
Newton, Wengay "Newt" [D]
Payne, Bobby [R]
Pigman, Cary [R]
Polsky, Tina Scott [D]
Raschein, Holly [R]
Rodriguez, Anthony [R]
Roth, Rick [R]
Slosberg, Emily [D]
Trumbull, Jay [R]
Watson, Jr., Clovis [D]
Zika, Ardian [R]



We are very fortunate that Rep. Stan McClain is a member of each of these committees.

Please look the list over for members from your area and start contacting them now that HB 71 is scheduled to appear in their committee this session and we would greatly appreciate their support to pass HB 71.

FROM THE AMA

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Senate adopted a resolution promoting awareness of motorcyclist profiling and encouraging collaboration and communication with the motorcycling community and law enforcement officials to prevent instances of profiling. Senate Res. 154 also urges state law enforcement officials to condemn motorcyclist profiling in their policies and training materials. Senate resolutions do not have the force of law. But the resolution is recognition at the federal level that motorcyclist profiling is discriminatory and unacceptable.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - A new law (A.B. 1824) makes a fine mandatory for motor vehicles and motorcycles cited for excessive exhaust sound. The violation previously was a correctable offense, which allowed the owner to bring the vehicle into compliance while avoided a fine. SACRAMENTO, Calif. - Bicycle helmets are no longer required for those 18 or older riding motorized scooters (A.B. 2989). Riders may operate the scooters on Class IV and Class II bikeways and on roads with speed limits as high as 25 mph. MATTIGHOFEN, Austria - KTM AG appears to be considering the purchase of Ducati from the Volkswagen Group, according to reports from CNET.com. Volkswagen paid \$840 million for Ducati six years ago. GAINESVILLE, Ga. - Fox Factory Holding Corp., manufacturer of performance products for bicycles and powered vehicles, expects to create up to 800 jobs and invest up to \$50 million in new Georgia facilities including the relocation of its corporate headquarters to Hall County, Ga. The first phase of the project is expected to be

complete in early 2020. Fox was expected to relocate its corporate headquarters from Scotts Valley, Calif., to its existing offices in Georgia by the end of 2018. MARIETTA, Ga. - Yamaha has expanded its local corporate presence in Cobb County, Ga., by opening a new headquarters for its motorsports division, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported. The office brings 100 sales and marketing jobs to Marietta. And the building will become the new U.S. home for Yamaha Motor Corporation's motorsports division. TOKYO - Yamaha Motor Co. Ltd. is investing \$100 million over 10 years in the U.S.-based Yamaha Motor Exploratory Fund LP, which, in turn, will invest in venture companies with innovative technologies and business models in future personal mobility, urban transportation, aviation, automated agriculture and automated health care. WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Rolling Thunder "Ride for Freedom" demonstration, which drew thousands of motorcyclists to the nation's capital each year to honor service members that were abandoned after the Vietnam War, is ending. The organizers said the 2019 event will be the last. Rolling Thunder Vice President Pete Zaleski said the cost of organizing the event spiraled to more than \$200,000. So the group is asking its 90 chapters across the country to organize local demonstration rides in 2020 and thereafter. MADRID, Spain - The city of Madrid is making motorcycling in its central area nearly impossible for motorcyclists, according to a report by Wim Taal of the Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations. Madrid has lowered speed limits to help reduce air pollution and introduced areas where non-residents are not allowed to drive. In November, the city dropped its exemptions for motorcycles. The new rules forbid access to the city center for motorcycles registered before 2003. The fine for violating the restriction is 90 Euros.

That's all for this month.....RIDE SAFE AND ENJOY.....Zman



Webmaster



Hi Polk County,
It's still Snowbird Season. Be careful out there. Remember to run with your brights on during daylight hours and watch for cages making left turns in front of you. Install bright LED lights in your turn signal and brake lights. The better they see you, the safer you are.
Follow us on Facebook:

ABATE of Florida - Polk County Chapter
POLK COUNTY MOTORCYCLE RIDERS

And on our Website:
<http://polk.abateflorida.com/>

History of ABATE of Florida, Inc.

ABATE came to Florida in the mid 1970's. At that time it was a group of individual and unaffiliated chapters. In 1979, ABATE of Florida, Inc. was formed by the individual chapters. This union was the basis for today's organization. Throughout the years, ABATE of Florida, Inc. has strived to be an effective political force for the rights of motorcyclists in Florida. We have also attempted to keep up to date on all legislation on a federal level and have tried to input our concerns to our federal officials.

ABATE of Florida, Inc. has hired a professional lobbyist to aid us in our fight for freedom of choice. Our lobbyist has also been instructed to keep a close watch on all State or National legislation that would affect all motorcyclists.

Editor

The friends I have never met.

My friend on line

*It's strange to have a friend that you
have never hugged, shook their hand
or looked into their eyes.*

*But you have been touched by their soul,
seen the good in their hearts and felt the
warmth of their being.*

*The friends I have never met are not my
friends untouched, for I have felt them
with me when I needed them. I have
confided in them and they are some of
the kindest people I have ever known.*

Please note any political information in the chapter newsletter is for your educational purposes only and is not meant as promotional materials.

All members are encouraged to submit articles, photos, and other materials that would be of interest to their fellow members by 11:00pm on Friday following the chapter meeting except when announced otherwise. All board members are encouraged to submit their articles as soon as possible following the monthly meeting. Please do not submit slanderous or accusing

letters or profanity.

Calling all members we are looking for letters from YOU!!!

It does not have to be about the chapter it can be about legislative issues, community activities that have happened or other vital information. Please send your submissions to either PO Box 2743 Lakeland, FL 33806 or email abateneewsletter@hotmail.com



Join Us!



At our next meeting Feb.17, 2019 at

1:00PM

Boondocks

8515 US Hwy 98 North
Lakeland, FL



A.B.A.T.E UPCOMING EVENTS

POLK COUNTY CHAPTER

Feb. 17 ♣ Chapter Meeting 1:00pm @ BOONDOCKS 8515 Hwy 98 North

Feb. 22 ♣ Newsletter submission deadline

STATE

[February State Meeting](#)- Ocala
[February 9, 2019](#)

OTHER CHAPTERS

[Southeast Jan. 20, 2019](#)
[Vintage Jan. 26, 2019](#)

BIKE NIGHTS IN THE AREA

OTHER EVENTS

Webster's is Always the first Sunday

Every WED ♣ 6 PM - ?? MOJO's – Lakeland

Every THURS ♣ 7 PM - ?? JOHNNY G's – Lakeland

Every Thurs ♣ 7 PM - ?? LA's MIDWAY – Across from Winter Haven Airport

Every FRI ♣ 7 PM - ?? POUR HOUSE – Havendale Blvd, Winter Haven

First THURS, ♣ 6PM - ?? VFW on North 98

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**ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

P.O. BOX 2520
DELAND, FL 32721-2520
(386) 934-9610



NAME (Please Print Legibly) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE+4 _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ (Please Include Area Code)

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MAY WE USE YOUR PHONE NUMBER FOR OUR PHONE TREE YES ☐ NO ☐

ARE YOU A REGISTERED VOTER YES ☐ NO ☐

PLEASE LIST YOUR VOTING DISTRICTS FROM YOUR REGISTRATION CARD

_____ FL HOUSE _____ FL SENATE _____ US CONGRESS

NAME OF CHAPTER YOU WISH TO JOIN _____

If you are a member of more than one chapter, please designate your home chapter _____

CHECK ONE BOX THAT APPLIES TO YOU:

- ☐ NEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (\$20)
☐ RENEWAL OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP (\$20)
☐ LIFE MEMBERSHIP (\$600)
☐ TRANSFER MEMBERSHIP TO :

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

All members receive with their paid membership, a membership card, our electronic bi-monthly Masterlink magazine, a chapter newsletter (electronic or hard copy), chapter voting privileges, a \$4000.00 Accidental Death or Dismemberment policy and personal involvement in statewide motorcycle safety and legislative concerns and their freedom to ride.

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

FOR ABATE OFFICE USE _____ CHAPTER MEMBER

MEMBERSHIP DUES PAID BY: CASH ☐ CHECK ☐ MONEY ORDER ☐ CC ☐

MAILED DATE _____ MEMBERSHIP CARD _____ COPY OF BYLAWS _____

MEMBER EXPIRATION DATE _____