



# SCRIBE'S LEGISLATIVE VOICE



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ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC.

## WELCOME TO THE LEGISLATIVE VOICE

Welcome to the very first edition of the ABATE of Florida's, Inc. "LEGISLATIVE VOICE". The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an informative way to communicate ideas on how we can all better improve the way we lobby and educate our government and general public to promote motorcycling in a safe and positive manner. I want to encourage your participation so that we can all grow and learn together.

DARRIN "SCRIBE" BROOKS, *State Legislative Trustee*, ABATE of Florida, Inc.

### SET A GOAL FOR YOUR CHAPTER

We have all heard before that the most successful people have written or defined goals that they are able to strive towards. In reality very few of us actually write down goals or even think about setting goals. I would like to offer one that will help in everything your Chapter does in your community. I like to call it "**Phase One – Get your Chapter logo recognized.**" The purpose of this goal is to have your Chapter become an acknowledged and respected organization in your community. Thus **Phase One** is born. This phase will take a long time to complete but complete it we all will.

We will pursue this goal by inviting the local politicians and community leaders to attend and address our Chapters. We want them learn about us and get to know who we are as a Chapter. They will learn that we are passionate about many things and not just about motorcycles: that we are active in our community, that

we give back to our community, and we are concerned about the future of our community. We want them see the need to reach out to our Chapters since we are a true microcosm of the community. They will recognize what and who we are and whether they agree with us or not, they will respect us for the stands we take.

Reach out and invite your local leaders to attend and speak to your Chapter. When a politician holds a "Town Hall Meeting", take several members to show your concern for local issues. Plus, it is VERY recognizable when a group of quiet and respectable bikers attend an event. Shake hands with the leaders and their staff, ask intelligent questions, and avoid all negative interactions. This will make a huge a huge impact on everyone and help to chip away at some of the negative stereotypes that we as bikers sometimes endure.



### LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

At the Leadership Seminar, we will be discussing in more detail how you can be more effective in legislative arena and make your Chapter a powerful force in your community. If you have been to a State Delegates meeting then most likely you have heard Danny "Doc" Fish stress that ABATE of Florida has two purposes: Legislative and Safety and that is how important the Legislative Trustee position is at the Chapter level. Read the Q&A I had with Rep. Matt Hudson from District 101 to see how a State Legislator feels about the job you chosen within your Chapter.

*"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."*

THOMAS JEFFERSON

# LEGISLATOR'S CORNER

*I am going to try and have a section each month that will feature one of our State Legislators. This month I spoke with Rep. Matt Hudson from District 101 that covers parts of Collier and Broward Counties. Rep. Hudson is a member of Gator Alley Chapter and is a valuable ally to those of us in the motorcycling community. Those of us in Collier County have watched Rep. Hudson grow from serving the community on various community advisory boards to a district Fire Commissioner to his current State Representative position. I recently spoke with Rep. Hudson and asked him a few questions to get a Legislator's point of view on what we are doing and how we can improve our task of reaching out to our Legislators.*



**REP. MATT HUDSON**  
*Distinct 101*

**Scribe - “Rep. Hudson, What do you think of the Chapter Legislative Trustee position?”**

Rep. Hudson - “The position of Legislative trustee or liaison is extremely important in my opinion. The person that is entrusted with the position really has a great deal of responsibility and has the obligation to make sure that all of the members are educated on the issues that are important to ABATE as well as issues that are important to all Floridians. Knowledge is power and an informed electorate is the first step towards creating good public policy. From a Legislators standpoint there are so many issues that have an impact on the 19 million people of Florida that it is impossible to be an expert in all of them. The Legislative trustee should be a resource to the Legislator so that they can inform them of the issues important to ABATE and why. I believe that our Republic works best when the citizens are engaged and the position of Legislative trustee does just that.”

**Scribe - “What is most effective way to communicate with a Legislator? Face to face, telephone, e-mail, hand written note?”**

Rep. Hudson - “Legislators get thousands of pieces of correspondence every week as a result each Legislator handles correspondence a bit differently. Personally I like face to face visits with some good talking points on the important issues. I also encourage interaction through email but NOT in the form letter approach. Form Letters are impersonal and are likely to generate an impersonal response. The key is to build a rapport with the Legislator and let them be your guide as to how best to interact with their office.”

**Scribe - “Is it important to build a relationship with the Legislators staff?”**

Rep. Hudson - “I cannot stress how important this is... Legislative staff is an invaluable resource to the Legislator and in turn to their constituents. The job of Legislator incorporates representing more than 150,000 people and in many cases in multiple counties and in my case on both coasts. Therefore time can be very precious and the demands for it can be very high. When we are in Tallahassee we are only in session for 60 days and those days are spent in Committee or Council meetings as well as Full Chamber sessions. Whatever time is left in between is spent advancing our Legislation and studying the legislation and issues that others have proposed. The Legislative staff will always be available to meet in a Legislators absence and will share your concerns thoughts and ideas with their Legislator. Legislative staff rarely gets the true credit they deserve so when you see them thank them for their service.”

*I want to thank Rep. Matt Hudson for taking the time to talk with us. He also wanted me to remind everyone of the gift ban rules and that way no one gets started on the wrong foot. Remember Legislators and their staff are restricted from taking anything of value. They can of course take materials that provide information on issues or organizations.*

If your local Legislator would like to be a part of our newsletter, please let me know. I would be more than happy to put them in our “Legislator’s Corner”.

