



Scribes

# Legislative Voice



MAY, 2010 VOLUME 001, ISSUE 10

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC.

The last four months have been very positive for ABATE of Florida, Inc. No where is this more evident than at the last three State Delegates Meetings. Those who were fortunate to be at these meetings had a chance to hear from and talk to some well known candidates for local, statewide, and national offices. These are candidates that recognize ABATE of Florida, Inc. and all our members for the political force that we are today. They recognize the outreach that our members have in influencing our friends, co-workers, and neighbors. They realize that their appearance was not a one time static event because they understand that our influence and networks are very dynamic and that by now news of their visit to ABATE of Florida, Inc. has rippled across the State many times over.

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

*"Who shall set a limit to the influence of a human being?"*  
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

The theme for this month's Legislative Voice is Influence and the influence that we have over other people. As Emerson stated above, we have no idea how much influence we possess. Each and every one of us has an influence on others and we in turn are influenced by others. When most people first think about someone with influence, they normally think about someone important, wealthy, or famous. But upon further reflection, I think that almost everyone will say that the most influential people in their lives are neither famous nor wealthy but are very important to them.

Believe it or not, you are influential to many people that you know and even to some that you do not know. So what does that have to do with ABATE, you ask? Well, it has to do with the ripple effect after a pebble has been tossed into a quiet pond. Motorcyclists by our very nature tend to be social beings. We join together in various organizations, groups, and clubs. We gather together for food and drink where we love to talk and we are not shy about voicing our opinions. At work, it is not uncommon for us to share our views with our co-workers and the same goes when we are at home. This is our social network and every one of us has an ever expanding group of people with whom we communicate.

For example, Joe Biker attended the State Delegates meeting at which Sen. Paula Dockery spoke to ABATE of Florida, Inc. about her campaign for Governor of Florida. This was the first time Joe has seen or heard Sen. Dockery and he really liked what she said and the way she reached out to ABATE. Joe goes back home and tells his family what he heard then goes to work and talks to his co-workers about Sen. Dockery and what she said that he liked. Later on that week, Joe meets

his friends at their local hang-out and as the conversation turns to politics, Joe tells everyone about Sen. Dockery and that she took time out of her weekend to come and talk to a bunch of motorcyclists. Later that month at the Chapter meeting, Joe tells the Chapter about the State meeting and Sen. Dockery. Joe's friends and family know that Joe cares about politics and motorcyclist rights. They see him as someone who knows what's going on in that area and therefore they are influenced by his opinions and knowledge.

In that one visit when Sen. Paula Dockery spoke at our February State Delegates meeting at Lake County, she actually spoke face to face to 100 or so ABATE members. Yet, each one of those members is like Joe and by the end of the month a couple of thousand extra people now know about Sen. Dockery and the numbers will keep multiplying. This is the influence that we have and most of us have not realized this effect.

I can tell you that the politicians are becoming more aware of the influence that ABATE of Florida possesses. That is the reason we have seen a dramatic increase in the politicians that want to come and speak to us. They realize the amount of influence that each one of us holds.

Use your influence and talk to people about how you feel regarding certain politicians. Tell people who you support and why you support them. I support candidates not because of just what they say, but how they make me feel inside. We must look at their track record and see how have they supported ABATE and other issues that are important to us. Use your influence to help get the good people elected to every office that you can because now is the time when they need our help.