

NO BONES ABOUT IT

April 21, 2010

Last night's meeting was well worth the price of admission. We had some of the candidates running for various offices speak to the membership and I find that we are finally becoming a voting force that is being recognized. They came to speak to us to let us know that we are important and we can make a difference in the direction that we are going. I have, in the past, mentioned to you how important that it is that you register and vote and I am going to mention it again.

I could go into the old story about how men and women have paid the ultimate price to insure your right to vote for the candidate of your choice and that in itself should make you want to stand in line at the voting polls to be the first one through the door. What I will tell you is now you have become a part of the future of motorcycling in this country, not just Nevada. You are a member of a group of like minded individuals that are willing to stand up for themselves and change what has been wrong for so many years by letting policy makers in Carson City and in Washington D.C. know it is time to stop arbitrarily legislating against bikers.

We don't want to be treated any differently than anyone else and we don't want laws enforced that prevent the lifestyle that we cherish so dearly. Every year we face increased legislation from some pencil pushing government bureaucrat that has never been closer than a lanes width to a motorcycle let alone thrown a leg over one. They claim to have your best interest in mind and under the guise of safety want to remove the free spirit that lives in each and every one of us. We, however, have come together to stop those that find our lifestyle a bit too free and a bit too wild for their taste and are now investigating the new guys attempting to land the positions in the senate and the assembly. The new people know that to win an election in this state the difference in votes could be as little as one or two and now that we have a substantial membership we have the power to change the results of any election.

For the past twenty some years riders in this state have been attempting to fight the laws enacted against motorcycles and it is time to revise our strategy and try a different approach to the problem. The fight always comes down to a pre-determined decision made long before the hearing takes place. We need to have the battle won prior to any session hearings. We need to have the majority of the Senators on our side long before this goes to session and the only way we are going to accomplish this is to put people in office that have committed to our cause. Every state that has amended the helmet law has done exactly that, they have voted people in that are willing to make a stand for our rights and can influence the others around them, and once in office make the changes to protect your rights in the future.

People: be forewarned. If you should choose not to exercise your right to vote you will be subjecting yourselves to more legislation down the road. There is a bill being introduced into Congress right now to institute a national helmet law that will withhold federal money for highway funding should any state choose not to put this law in place. This is how the helmet law got started in the first place. With most of the states near financial ruin they are scrambling for funds to remain solvent and with the thought of losing federal money of any kind, who, do you think, will come out on top of this situation?

Once a nationwide mandatory helmet law is put in place not only will we have to fight this battle at the congressional level, but how long do you think it will take before laws are mandated for certain types of exhaust systems, limited cubic inch motors, engine governors and yes, possibly seat belts? I know how ridiculous this might sound but if these bureaucrats are allowed to continue on this path we will suffer the brunt of their ignorance.

Some of us don't have a problem with helmets and think that riding without one is risky, but you are the one that makes that choice, not some Carson City legislator that thinks he or she knows what's best for you. The fact that you belong to an organization that fights for the rights of bikers everywhere shows me that you believe there are some places that the government just does not belong. We are not fighting the device, but are fighting for the right to make decisions in our lives that affect us as individuals. It is wrong for you to be threatened with jail, a fine or possible impoundment of your bike for wanting to ride without, what is classified by the state as, "protective headgear". The choice should be yours to make, because you are the only one it affects and you are all responsible adults that have the capacity for rational thought.

We are fast approaching the Laughlin Freedom Ride and I hope you all get the chance to be there. This little bit of civil disobedience will tell the state of Nevada that it is time for a new line of thinking and that we need the tourist revenue we are losing and we are ready to join our neighbors to the north, east and west in becoming a free state to ride in.

In closing I would like to thank the candidates that spoke at the meeting on the 20th of April and would invite any of the other candidates that you know or that read this letter to make arrangements and speak to the membership so we have the information to make an informed decision on June 8th in the primary election. I will attempt to put a list of candidates' together and post it on the website that are in favor of restoring our rights and preserving them for the future.

WHEN INJUSTICE BECOMES LAW

RESISTANCE BECOMES DUTY

BONES