

LINC Report March 07

I'm a little late this month. Took a tumble on the ice a couple of weeks ago and it set me back a bit. It wasn't pretty, but it could have been a lot worse!

Not much happening on the legislative front at the moment. Looks like HB 1205 is dead. We will be re-introducing again next year.

There were more than 1,400 bills filed for consideration at the beginning of this session. Needless to say, the concentration has been on the budget, which gets revised every two years. The major highlights of this budget are education, full day kindergarten and tax relief. Not necessarily motorcyclist related issues, but certainly citizen related, and we should all be following these issues as well. **Of issue to motorcyclists is HB 1830, which would allocate \$30 million a year for the next two years to help fund local road projects. HB 1830 would draw this local road funding from interest money earned (more than \$1.8 billion over 10 years) by the Major Moves Construction Fund. It will be interesting to see how this plays out in improving local roads, which we ride consistently.** Encourage members to follow this bill and also be in contact with local officials regarding the spending of this money.

An interesting study done by the U of Michigan can be found at the website below. I would suggest you print it out (it's one page) and share it with members. It is an interesting article relating to "baby boomer" age bikers and accident statistics in Michigan. Pay attention to the last 2 paragraphs in particular. (Thanks Bob Sipes)
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/03/070302115657.htm>

Also, please encourage members to join MRF if they are able to do so. MRF is our national rights organization and they represent us on "The Hill" and advise and warn us of issues that need our attention. (Remember Lautenburg) Remind members of the Lucas Oil custom motorcycle giveaway. Anyone that joins or renews their membership is eligible to win this bike.

Encourage members to invite local officials to meetings. Mayors, sheriffs, road commissioners, etc. need to know that we exist and that we VOTE! Invite them to a meeting for a "chat" about issues pertaining motorcyclists.

Thanks for all you do for ABATE of Indiana and for LINC.

from Terry Ends
ABATE State LINC Director

3/5/07