

What is ABATE PAC and why do we need to fund it?

Over the years ABATE of Iowa has taken different steps in the direction of protecting your right to ride. One of them was the creation of the ABATE political action committee, better known as ABATE PAC. To many members, this is a mysterious entity that they only hear about when asked for another donation of their hard-earned money. We hope that this article can help explain its purpose and function, and why it operates on donations.

The laws pertaining to political campaign donations are a tangled web of rules and regulations that I'm sure even some politicians don't completely understand. They can only accept a certain amount in corporate donations to their campaigns. While most of us don't like the money game and how it is played in Des Moines and Washington, we accept the need to be a player as a necessary evil. To be a player we need to be able to donate to campaigns, and that is where ABATE PAC comes into the picture. By forming a political action committee, we are able to pool resources (donations from you, our members) and then use them for things such as donations to the campaigns of candidates friendly to ABATE and the motorcyclists of Iowa. The political action committee can not accept money from corporations, and because of this it is allowed different limits on donating to political campaigns. This regulation also prohibits the use of money from the general fund of ABATE of Iowa.

Therefore, we must rely on the generous contributions of the membership to fund the committee. Over the years this has been accomplished in many ways. Events, donations at meetings, a check off on the membership form are some of the different things done to generate cash for the committee to work with. The operations manual requires that legislative fundraising (as in PAC) be a part of each district meeting and event.

How to accomplish that is up to each district. A district PAC officer is a good idea. Some districts incorporate that into the job of the district legislative officer or his/her assistant. One of the better ideas we have seen is to ask for a donation at the time that you have people sign in for the district meeting. By recording this at sign in, you have all the info needed to record the donation on the form that is sent to the ABATE PAC treasurer with the donations every month. This also allows the member to receive a pin that shows his support of ABATE PAC at different levels, \$25, \$50, \$75, during the PAC year which runs from August 1 to July 31. Also make sure to put out a jug at district events.

Is your district using any of these ideas to increase donations? Do you have any other ideas you can share? A bigger fund in ABATE PAC allows us to pay for our lobbyist and send people to Washington to meet with your congressman without going to the ABATE general fund. Please do all you can to help. For those who can't make the district meetings I will include a donation form. Please, send what you can. It's our right to ride we're fighting to protect. Freedom isn't Free!

Jim West

ABATEPAC

ABATE PAC Donation Form

Yes! I can make a donation to help out in the fight for our Rights!

____\$100 ____\$75 ____\$50 ____\$25 ____Other

Name:

Address:

Address:

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Member number (If Known): _____

Mail Donation form along with your generous donation to the ABATE PAC Treasurer at:

Boyd Buck
3118 Eastern Ave NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-4143