

Motorcycle Day at the Dome



The Motorcycle Day at the Dome {MDATD} gives politically-minded motorcyclists the opportunity to meet Arizona Legislators and discuss with them issues that affect motorcyclists. This year's event took place on Wednesday February 15, 2017.

More than 200 motorcyclists attended, representing Independent riders and more than 37 Organizations.

The organizers of this event are ABATE {American Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education - AZ}, ACMC {AZ's Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs}, MMA {Modified Motorcycle Association - AZ}, MMAA {Mountain Motorcycle Association of AZ}, and VAMR {Veterans Affairs and Motorcycle Rights}.

A special 'motorcycles-only' parking area was reserved on 17th Ave between Washington and Jefferson in Phoenix. Everyone gathered at the Capitol House lawn at 1700 W. Washington between 10a-2pm.

There was a large open-air tent with tables and chairs where Bikers and Legislators shared a hosted luncheon while they discussed issues such as the Motorcycle Safety Fund and its importance in funding motorcycling-related safety programs ~ including rider education scholarships and motorcycle awareness presentations to automobile drivers & driver education classes. The importance of these awareness & safety programs & their goal to prevent crashes cannot be overstated.

In addition to the more 'informal' conversations

taking place in this setting, some constituents chose to also arrange private appointments for more in-depth one-on-one meetings.

After the luncheon, those who wanted could meet up with our Lobbyists, Skypilot & Bobbi, to attend a Committee or Floor meeting. It was a learning opportunity to see how a Bill gets heard & see the process of the House & Senate sessions.

This year, information booths included hosts ABATE-AZ & MMA-AZ, Law Tigers, Alex & Saavedra Law, AMSAF {AZ Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Foundation}, and AIM/NCOM {Aid to Injured Motorcyclists / Nat'l Coalition of Motorcyclists}.

There were reportedly 36+ Legislators & other staffers in attendance. According to a list shared by ABATE of Arizona's State Designated Lobbyist Michael Infanzon, Senators attending included: Sylvia Allen, Sean Bowie, Karen Fann, Steve Farley, Katie Hobbs, Kate Brophy-McGee, and Steve Smith. Representatives included: Isela Blanc, Kelli Butler, Noel Campbell, Todd Clodfelter, David Cook, Kristen Engel, Mitzi Epstein, Randal Friese, Sally Ann Gonzales, Travis Grantham, Phil Lovas, Paul Mosley, Jill Norgaard, Rebecca Rios, Michele Ugenti-Rita, Marcario Saldate, Athena Salman, Dan Shooter, T.J. Shope, David Stringer, Maria Syms, Bob Thorpe, Kelly Townsend, Michele Udall, and Jeff Weninger.

From the MDATD website, www.motorcycle-day-at-the-dome.org "The Motorcycle Day at the Dome committee would like to not only acknowl-

edge but sincerely thank Law Tigers for their commitment to the motorcycling community in Arizona. They have come on board to provide the printing of the reminder cards for the 2017 Motorcycle Day at the Dome along with sponsoring the website. Thank you, Bob and Law Tigers for your support. The motorcyclists in Arizona appreciate you!"

While this isn't the average every-day event that bikers attend... it IS an event that affects ALL motorcyclists in our state. ALL motorcyclists are welcome to attend, even those who wouldn't describe themselves as 'politically-oriented'. Regardless of whether you participate in the system, you are a constituent. This is an opportunity for you to meet the people in office who make decisions on your behalf ~ HOPEFULLY in your favor. This is also an opportunity for them to put a face to the actions they take when voting for or against a motorcycling-related issue. Your participation DOES make a difference.

Photo credits include Woody Phillips, MotorcycleSafari.com <http://www.motorcyclesafari.com/photos-from-2017-motorcycle-day-at-the-dome-in-arizona/>

And additional attendees whose photos were posted to Facebook. Thank you all.

Thank you also to Dawn P Steed, ABATE of AZ State Secretary, and East Valley Chapter Secretary & Communications Officer, for your help with this report.

Betsy

