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ANNUAL REPORT
The Motorcycle Riders Foundation



MRF Annual Report

January 1, 2016 – December 1, 2017



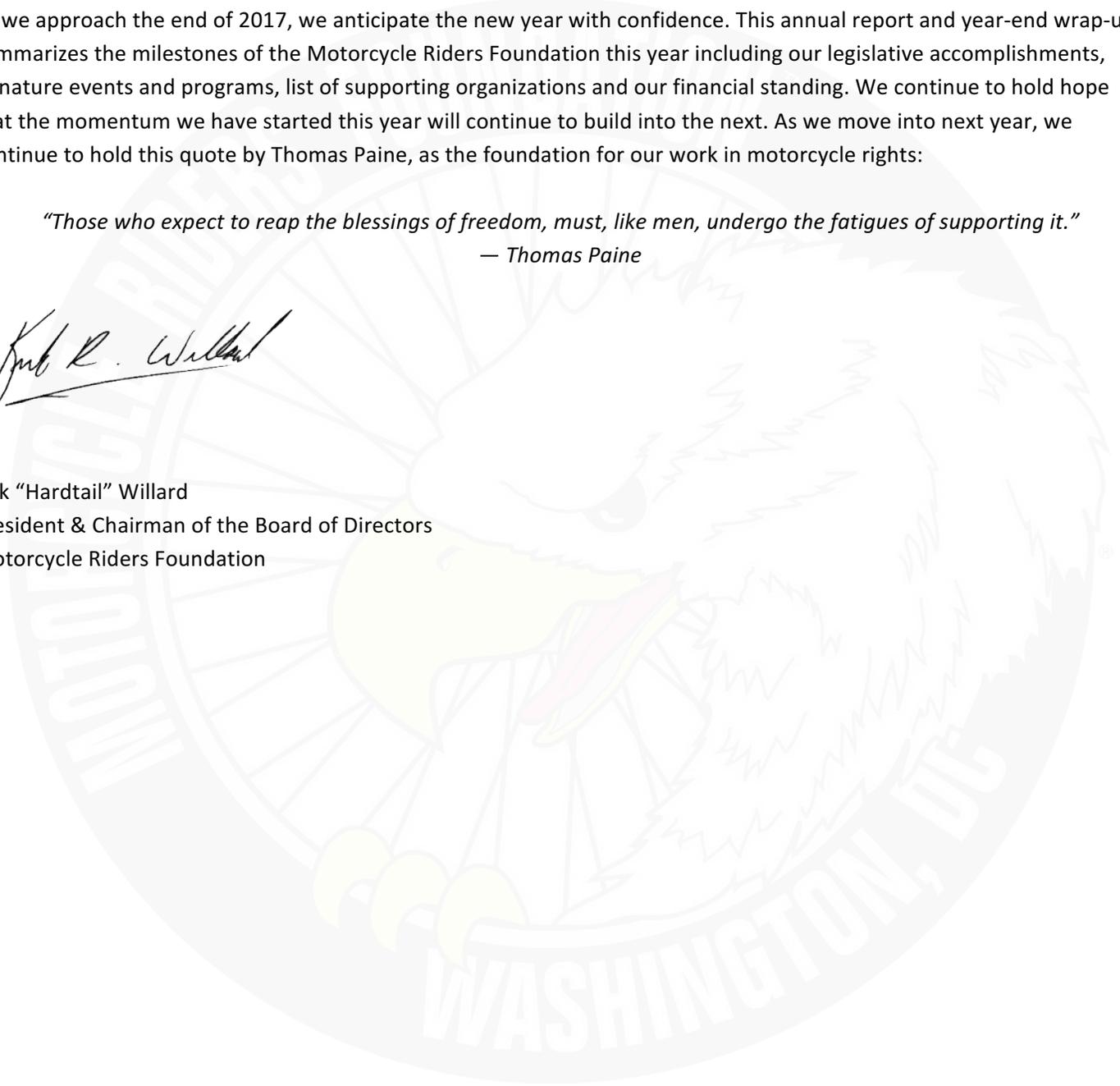
As we approach the end of 2017, we anticipate the new year with confidence. This annual report and year-end wrap-up summarizes the milestones of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation this year including our legislative accomplishments, signature events and programs, list of supporting organizations and our financial standing. We continue to hold hope that the momentum we have started this year will continue to build into the next. As we move into next year, we continue to hold this quote by Thomas Paine, as the foundation for our work in motorcycle rights:

“Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it.”

— Thomas Paine



Kirk “Hardtail” Willard
President & Chairman of the Board of Directors
Motorcycle Riders Foundation



-Accomplishments-

Introduction of Bipartisan & Bicameral Resolutions to Address Motorcycle Profiling – Increasingly, bikers have voiced complaints over incidents where they have felt profiled or singled out by law enforcement because of their appearance, apparel, or because they are simply riding a motorcycle. This unjust and unlawful practice has led to activity at the state level, but in 2017, federal authorities took notice and introduced legislation in both the House and Senate addressing the issue, promoting public awareness and urging state law enforcement officials to condemn the practice in written policies and training materials. H.Res.318 and S.Res.154 are major steps in making the issue of profiling a national discussion. These bills are currently pending before Congress and will carry over into 2018.

Autocycles Are Identified Separately from Motorcycles in Guidance Issued by the Federal Government – Starting in 2016, the MRF has been advocating nationally for the separation of autocycles from motorcycles. As more autocycles started to emerge on our nation's roadways, crash and fatality data were being categorized under the motorcycle grouping due to the lack of a nationally recognized definition of autocycle. Expressing our concerns to Congress and the authorities at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in August, guidance from the agency reflected our advocacy efforts. In the 5th edition of the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC), a standardization document issued to all 50 states used to describe motor vehicle crashes. In this document, for the first time ever, the autocycle was identified as a separate class of vehicle distinct from motorcycles. The MMUCC document categorized autocycles in their own category with a separate definition. Your MRF will continue its work in this area in 2018, ensuring that federal authorities regard autocycles separate from motorcycles.

EPA Proposes a Rule to Drop the Amount of Ethanol in the Nation's Fuel Supply – Since Congress expanded the Renewable Fuel Standard in 2007, oil and gas companies have been required to blend increasing volumes of renewable fuels (like ethanol) into the nation's gasoline supply. The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) believes that until higher blends of ethanol can be approved for use by both the EPA and motorcycle manufacturers, the federal government must guarantee the availability of fuel blends containing no more than 10 percent ethanol by volume at fuel stations across the U.S. In October of this year, the EPA proposed changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard which, for the first time, would NOT call for an increase in conventional ethanol and would LOWER the required volume of cellulosic biofuel, considered the next generation of ethanol, by 73 million gallons. While at the time of this writing, the proposed rule by the EPA has not been finalized, it indicates that the many voices who have concerns over ethanol on their small engine motors are finally being heard.

Comprehensive Legislation on Autonomous Vehicles Includes Concerns from Motorcyclists – As more and more automakers announce plans to pursue the creation and manufacture of self-driving cars paired with the absence of any national legislation or regulation addressing the safety of these vehicles, your MRF has been sounding the alarm to lawmakers. Identifying our concerns related to the ability to detect and respond to motorcycles, the MRF insisted that automakers file a mandatory safety report to NHTSA upon bringing self-driving cars to market and this report must include information related to how the vehicle identifies and responds to motorcyclists. Further, these reports MUST be made publicly available upon request. The Senate bill is currently awaiting action, but your MRF will continue to make sure that motorcycles are an integral part of any discussion, law, regulation or policy governing self-driving vehicles.

The Senate Establishes the First Ever 'Senate Motorcycle Caucus' – The motorcycle lobby community in Washington gathered in April to celebrate the launch of the newly established Senate Motorcycle Caucus. Led by Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) and Senator Gary Peters (D-MI), the caucus will focus on issues that impact both riders and industry manufacturers. Similar to the House Motorcycle Caucus, the Senate group will serve as a network of lawmakers who are

riders themselves or motorcycle supporters. Work is already underway for the caucus to host various events next year including a panel on automated vehicles, and a networking reception with Harley-Davidson. Your MRF is working behind the scenes on both of these events to make sure our members have a voice and seat at the table.

-Events & Programs-

State Legislative Tracking – Launched in January, the MRF now offers its members and motorcycle rights supporters the ability to track and follow motorcycle-related legislation in all fifty states. Searchable by issue or by state, users can access the data via <http://mrf.org/state-legislative-issues/>

Congressional Outreach Software – In addition to legislative tracking services, with your support, the MRF acquired new software making it easier to contact your Member of Congress on legislation that you care about. By simply entering your address and zip code, the “CQ software” generates a letter to your elected officials on your behalf on a variety of critical issues. The MRF issued 15 Calls to Action this year on issues ranging from the injustice of Motorcyclist Advisory Council to the support for the Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports Act. At the time of this writing, the software was accessed and utilized over 20,000 times.

Bikers Inside the Beltway 2017 This year’s Bikers Inside the Beltway was the most successful to date, hosting over 100 participants from 34 states. Riders from all corners of the U.S. flew, drove and yes, RODE to Washington, DC storming the Capitol and advocating on behalf of the motorcycle community.

Meeting of the Minds 2017 Set in historic Williamsburg, Virginia, Meeting of the Minds again proved to be one of the biggest gatherings of politically active motorcycle rights advocates in the nation. With special sessions on membership retention and a lesson from top gun rights activist and NRA official on how to stand out in today’s politics, the theme of “How Bad Do You Want It” resonated with attendees.

Capitol Hill SMARTrainer Demo – Staffers and Members of Congress got a little taste of what it’s like to ride. MRF A&E’s Ron Braaksma brought a SMARTrainer and riding experience to the Halls of Congress. Attendees got to test it out the SMARTrainer and encountered some of the challenges real riders face every day. From serious road curves to distracted drivers, almost everyone who participated commented on the unique challenges riders face. Events like this help to promote motorcycle education and awareness to not only the public, but to those decisionmakers in Washington that determine the level of freedom you have as a rider.

-MRF in the News-

Below are just a few examples of where the press and media referenced your MRF as a leading voice on national motorcycle issues:

On the emergence of automated vehicles...

<https://www.bna.com/motorcyclists-wary-hopeful-n73014472406/>

On the MRF’s Legislative Champion Award Winner...

<http://www.monroenews.com/news/20171123/walberg-honored-by-motorcycle-organization>

On the work being done on motorcycle profiling...

<https://www.russbrown.com/?s=profiling&=>

On the lack of motorcycle association representation on the Motorcyclist Advisory Council...

https://quickthrottle.com/DMAG/CA_March_2017/index.html

On the importance of passing the RPM Act...

<http://motorcycleminds.org/2017/09/19/rpm-modifying-bikes/>

-Supporting Organizations-

The MRF is grateful to all its members; both individual (\$30/year) and sustaining (\$100/year), but the following is a list of member organizations whose financial contribution allows the MRF to take on new initiatives, adding member benefits and resources for everyone who rides.

Champions of Motorcycle Rights

(\$5,000 and over in annual contributions to the MRF)

ABATE of Indiana

ABATE of South Dakota

ABATE of Michigan

ABATE of Wisconsin

ABATE of Pennsylvania

Guardians of Motorcycle Rights:

(\$1,000 and over in annual contributions to the MRF)

ABATE of Arizona

ABATE of New York

ABATE of Arkansas

ABATE of North Dakota

ABATE of Arkansas, District 1

ABATE of Ohio

ABATE of Illinois

ABATE of South Dakota, Rushmore Chapter

ABATE of Illinois, Lincoln Land Chapter

Freedom of Road Riders

ABATE of Minnesota

Massachusetts Motorcycle Association

ABATE of Michigan, Region 7

St. Croix Valley Riders

Defenders of Motorcycle Rights:

(Over \$100 in annual contributions to the MRF)

ABATE of Alaska

ABATE of IL, Freeport Chapter

ABATE of MI, Region 13

ABATE of Colorado

Idaho Coalition of Motorcycle

ABATE of MI, Region 14

ABATE of Oregon

Safety

ABATE of MN, North Star

ABATE of IL, Central Illinois

ABATE of IA, District 12 Chapter

ABATE of OK, Northwest Ch.

CMT/ABATE of Tennessee

ABATE of KS, District 6 Chapter

ABATE of IL, Piasa Gateway

Dixie ABATE of Alabama

ABATE of WA, Key Peninsula Ch

CBA/ABATE of NC, Raleigh Ch.

ABATE of SC, East Cooper

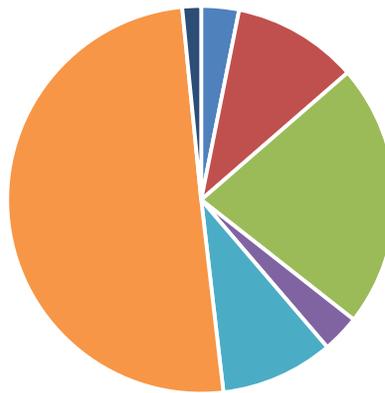
ABATE of MN, Lake Chapter

ABATE of IL, Starved Rock

-Where Do Our Dues Go?-

In an effort to be transparent and open about the MRF's finances, below is a chart describing expenditures in 2017. Your MRF and its dedicated staff and Board of Directors, continue to look for ways to spend less money on administrative costs and allocate more money towards programing and advocacy. In 2017 we relocated the national office to a smaller and more affordable location to make sure every dollar is maximized towards advocacy. If you have any questions on the MRF's income or expenditures, contact Frank Carbone, Treasurer of the MRF.

2017 Expenditures



- Travel & Lodging for MRF Staff
- MRF Reports (design, postage, printing)
- DC Office (rent, legal, supplies, administrative)
- Membership Materials & Marketing
- Programming Expenses (MotM, BITB, CQ Software)
- Payroll
- Website

-MRF's Political Action Committee-

The MRF's Political Action Committee or 'PAC' also made headway in 2017. The MRF PAC is a separate fund that pools campaign contributions from MRF members and then donates those funds to select campaigns for federal candidates that support the motorcycle community and biker rights. In 2017, the MRF PAC raised \$4,921. These monies bring the total fund in the MRF PAC to \$20,243. This pool of money will be used to help support motorcycle friendly candidates in 2018 running for election.

-Conclusion-

Despite all we have accomplished together in 2017, next year is sure to bring its own set of challenges as well as opportunities to advance biker rights. Together we must remain diligent and steadfast on the many issues affecting the rider community. If you are not an individual member of the MRF or if your chapter or state organization is interested in becoming a supporting organization, please consider helping our work by joining: <http://mrf.org/join-the-mrf/>

Whatever the future brings, your MRF looks forward to maintaining its status as the ONLY national motorcycle rights organization dedicated to on-street riders and its reputation as the leading expert when it comes to bikers and the freedom to ride.