

# Monthly Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA

## May 2008

Vinny Neuman – Legislative Coordinator – NCRider@att.net (919) 522-4922

### State Issues:

- **CBA STATE Lobby Day is on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** – There will be CBA members from across the state there lobbying. We will escort you and show you what to do and what to say. **I'll need to know who is going by May 15<sup>th</sup> so I can let their legislators know that they are coming. WHO IS DEFINITELY GOING?**

- **Learner's Permit Bill (SB 375):** (A bill that will shorten the time a person has to learn to ride) We oppose this bill. The bill passed the Senate in 2007. It currently has been sitting in the House Transportation Committee since May 15, 2007. Ref: [Last month's Action Alert](#) - Did anyone write their state House Rep? Did anyone get a response?

- **Central District putting your money to good use** - At the Central District meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>, the CD voted to give \$500 to pay for the state's expenses for Lobby Day. Those expenses include the hospitality hotel room and the printing fees to print the hand-out materials. Your Spoker Run entry fees are going directly to lobbying our legislators.

- **Motorcycle Safety Study Bill (SB 1121) – ACTION ALERT** – Please write your state senators and ask them to support the “Motorcycle Safety Center” proposed by Senate bill 1121 which would support the development and evaluation of a “crash-prevention” approach to motorcycle safety. Tell them that our lives depend on the development of a motorcycle specific alternative to the injury-reduction approach that has been killing bikers for more than 35 years. Please call or email Vinny if you are unsure of what to do to, who to contact or what to say. You can also read Doc Ski's blog entry dated 4/29/08 for more info.

### Federal Issues:

- **NO CHANGE - HIPAA Loophole** – We have already contacted our legislators on this issue. We will continue to monitor this issue.

- **Transportation Secretary Mary Peters** – ABATE of Illinois visited with their US House Reps last week and discussed the Mary Peters issue. The general impression received is that the Republicans aren't in any hurry to embrace Mary Peters ideas and the Democrats don't have much affection for her (or any one else in the Bush administration for that matter). Any movement on her proposals is not likely to happen soon but the MRF will be watching.

- **Bye Bye Frankie ?** - Senator Frank Lautenberg, the nation's number one helmet law advocate, is facing his first serious contender in his four terms as a US Senator. New Jersey Democrat US Rep. Robert Andrews has announced his bid for the 84-year-old sitting Senator's seat late last week. Andrews is no slouch – the son of a shipyard worker, he made a splendid career for himself as law professor at Rutgers and is currently serving as a nine-term member of the US House of Representatives. He is such an effective Congressman that he ran unopposed in his last election. He is the self described underdog both financially and in name recognition however he is a legitimate political force. Andrews has sworn to vote against any mandatory helmet legislation and to continue to be as supportive of motorcycling as he can in the US Senate. Not only would Lautenberg be out of power, he would be replaced by a Senator who would support motorcyclists instead of putting up barriers to riding. [robandrews08.com](http://robandrews08.com)

### News Items:

- **Honda Motor Company** scientists are claiming that if a motorcycle resembles a human face, especially an angry one, the motorcycle will be more visible to other motorists. This design can be seen on Honda's ASV-3 motorcycle as well as new sport-bike models such as the 2008 CBR 1000RR. The look is achieved by slanted headlights and changing the shape of the front (nose).

**Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.**

**Please read DocSki's latest blog entry at least once a week:**

**<http://docskivnv.bravejournal.com/>**

You can also subscribe to the email alerts and receive an email every time Doc posts a message.

## Let's not forget why we lobby for biker legislation and why CBA members teach MSAP classes:



This is Sandy Lee, a Brunswick County CBA member, wife, mother, and grandmother. She was killed by a right-of-way violator on August 23, 2003 while riding her motorcycle to have breakfast with her son who had just come home from being deployed overseas. Many of us knew her and miss her.

The ROW violator was talking with a friend in her car and crossed three lanes of traffic on Hwy 17 in Little River, SC to stop at a gas station. She never looked before cutting across the three lanes. Sandy was in one of those lanes on her motorcycle. Ray, Sandy's husband was following along behind her in his truck. He saw the whole thing.

Sandy Lee is one of the reasons the MSAP was created and why it was piloted by the Brunswick County CBA chapter.

Sandy took the day off every year to attend the CBA State Lobby Day. If you attend, you will see her husband Ray there on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Ray understands first-hand why it is important to show up at Lobby Day. Even if your legislator is not available to speak to you, 500 bikers at a lobby day make much more of an impact than 75 bikers at a Lobby Day.

Doc Ski tells these legislators all year long that he represents 1700+ CBA members. How many of those 1700 will show up on May 28<sup>th</sup> and provide Doc with the back-up he needs?

# NEVER forget Sandy Lee

Read "*An Open Letter from a Dead Motorcyclist*" here:  
[www.ncrider.com/Sandy-letter.htm](http://www.ncrider.com/Sandy-letter.htm)