

MRF E-MAIL NEWS Motorcycle Riders Foundation
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For Immediate Release

7 August 2008

Contact: Michael "Boz" Kerr, Vice President, Motorcycle Riders Foundation
Email: boz@mrf.org

MRF to meet with RNC Leadership

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) would like to announce that the leadership of the Republican National Committee (RNC) has agreed to meet with them. The meeting will take place on Monday, August 11, 2008 at the headquarters of the RNC in Washington DC. Representing the MRF will be Jeff Hennie, Vice President of Government Relations; Dave Dwyer, Sustaining State Motorcyclists Rights Organization Representative; and Michael Kerr, Vice President of the MRF.

The MRF sought to meet with the leadership of the RNC after a succession of appointees of President Bush took positions that the MRF and many in the motorcycling community felt were against their best interests. Those appointees happened to be prominent Republicans in their own right.

The MRF is seeking a clarification on the Republican Party's position on the doctrine of Federalism. The MRF will be asking whether this administration and/or future Republican presidential administrations will adhere to the longstanding GOP policy of the federal government not interfering with state issues.

The MRF has also been in touch with the Democratic National Committee and would hope to meet with them as well. A meeting with the campaign staff of the presumptive Presidential nominee of the Democratic Party is also being sought by the MRF.

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MRF E-MAIL NEWS Motorcycle Riders Foundation

Immediate Release

18 August 2008

Contact: Michael "Boz" Kerr, Vice President, MRF
Email: boz@mrf.org

Republican National Committee Director Meets with MRF

On a picture perfect August day, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation believes that it elevated its lobbying efforts to a new level. For several months the MRF had initiated letter, e-mail and phone correspondence with the Republican National Committee (RNC) requesting a meeting. The hope was to discuss our concerns with them over several appointees and members of President Bush's administration. We felt that going to the hierarchy of the Republican Party would be a unique course of action to attempt to influence this (and future) administrations.

After learning of our efforts to meet with them, RNC Chairman Mike Duncan asked their Director of Government Affairs, Will Kinzel, to arrange a meeting with us. The MRF readily accepted Mr. Kinzel's offer to meet on August 11, 2008 at their headquarters in Washington DC.

Representing the MRF was Jeff Hennie; Vice President of Government Relations, Dave Dwyer; Sustaining State Motorcyclists Rights Organization Representative, Tiffany Latimer; Washington Office Manager/Communications Assistant and Michael Kerr; Vice President of the MRF.

The meeting was candid and direct with the MRF citing by name, the appointees and their actions that we had grievances with. Our concerns were attentively listened to, but the comment was made that little could be done in regard to appointees of the current administration. At that point it was agreed that our discussion would focus on the future rather than the past. The exact number of days until the November election was mentioned. Suggestions were made as to how the MRF could leverage our political activism in regard to influencing future presidential appointees.

The MRF inquired as to what the Republican Party's position is on Federalism and the 10th amendment to the constitution. It was answered in a straightforward manner. We were told that the Republican Party remains committed to smaller government and to delegating as much government as possible to the states and local units.

The RNC expressed an interest in the MRF and the motorcyclist rights movement. They had questions of their own. One was whether any of us were in Sturgis when Senator McCain gave his speech. Others were more political in nature.

The meeting ended on a cordial note with the MRF representatives and Mr. Kinzel having their picture taken together in a reception area of their headquarters.

After the meeting with the RNC, the MRF representatives walked to the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). We have made repeated attempts to contact them requesting a meeting. To date, we have not received a reply. So we decided to personally deliver our candidate survey and ask to speak with someone (anyone would do) from the DNC. We were told by a security guard that no one was available, but we could leave our material for them.

We will be shifting gears - so to speak - in regard to making contact with the Democratic Party and their presidential candidate. After the convention we will begin to work on getting a meeting with the campaign staff of Senator Obama at his election headquarters in Chicago. We are anxious to meet with them.

The MRF believes August 11, 2008 to be an historic day in the history of the motorcyclists' rights movement. From our rather humble beginnings we have risen to where the leadership of the national political parties is taking us seriously and is willing to work with us on our issues.

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For Immediate Release

11 August 2008

Contact: Carol Downs, Conference Director
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Fax: (720) 748-0743
E-mail: downs@mrf.org

PANELISTS ANNOUNCED FOR MEETING OF THE MINDS 2008

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation would like you to join us on September 25-28th in Denver, CO for the 24th Annual Meeting of the Minds hosted by ABATE of Colorado. This is a four-day event including seminars that are targeted at educating motorcyclists on national and international issues that are facing us now and will be facing us in the foreseeable future. We are excited to announce that this year will feature "The Motorcycling Community- Working Together," a panelist discussion of top industry professionals.

Though the event kicks off Thursday evening with a Meet the MRF Board session, the highlight of with weekend will come on Saturday in the general session with the panelists. The panel will feature: Scott Arminger, Harley Davidson Motor Corp.; Keith Ball, BikerNet.com (Author, Freedom Fighter); Ed Moreland, American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) and Author; Duane Taylor, Govt. Relations Specialist – Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC); Kirk “Hardtail” Willard, President – Motorcycle Riders Foundation; and a yet-to-be-announced representative from the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM). In addition to a wide array of seminars and break-out sessions aimed at educating the attendees, the weekend will also feature a rematch of the famed Kilts vs. Bibs Tug-of-War contest, a banquet and silent auction on Saturday night. On Sunday morning the Karen Bolin Memorial Ride will allow attendees who rode in to take a tour of some of the surrounding area.

All MRF conferences offer an early registrations price break of \$10 for those who register before August 18, 2008. After that deadline, registration for MRF members is \$70, \$80 for non-members. Registration includes all seminars, materials and the banquet on Saturday evening.

Meeting of the Minds is being held at the Denver Tech Center Marriott, 4900 Syracuse, Denver, Co. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations by Monday, August 18th to receive the conference rate of \$89 a night. After Monday, the hotel will no longer hold the block of rooms reserved for this event and we cannot guarantee that space will be available in the conference hotel. To make a reservation at the Denver Tech Center, please call them directly at 1-800-228-9290 and tell them that you are with the Motorcycle Riders Foundation in order to receive the group rate. If you plan to fly to Denver, ABATE of Colorado has set up a shuttle that runs to and from the airport for your convenience. The shuttle will run on Thursday, Sept. 25th from Noon to 10 pm and Friday, Sept. 26th from 9 a.m. to 6 pm. To be picked up you will go out doors 506 or 507 (from baggage claim) and proceed to the limo/taxi booth on Island 1. Let the attendants there know that you want Classy Limos and tell them how many are in your group. Upon registration check-in at the Conference you will sign up for the return trip to the airport.

In order to register for this event, you can visit our website at www.mrf.org or contact the office at (202) 546-0983. Registration forms can be downloaded from the web and mailed to the MRF office at 236 Massachusetts Ave NE, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20002. For more information about this conference contact Conference Director, Carol Downs, at (303) 204-6939 or by e-mail at downs@mrf.org.

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8 August 2008

Contact: Jeff Hennie, Vice President of Government Relations, MRF
Email: jeff@mrf.org

Congress Adjourns for Five-Week Break

Washington DC is shuttered for the next five weeks to accommodate the congressional tradition of August recess. Generally the House and Senate scramble to pass as much legislation as possible in order to have more accomplishments to point to when speaking at town hall meetings back in their home districts. Being able to reassure constituents that Congress is doing all they can to alleviate society's problems is key to any US Representative's re-election campaign. With overall congressional approval ratings at an all time low of 14 percent, it's puzzling why Congress adjourned having done very little.

Gas prices. The number one issue before Congress today is energy. That's because it affects every aspect of life of every single person in the entire country. One would think that Congress would at least attempt to address the fuel cost epidemic at least in passing, if not in earnest. No matter what side of the political pasture you graze in, you have to agree that Congress has done next to nothing when it comes to rising energy costs.

Let's take a look at some of the ideas tossed around by Congress to address rising fuel prices. We first should acknowledge that proposals to suspend federal gasoline taxes aren't fooling anyone. Most people are well aware that their gas taxes go to building critical roads and bridges. Does anyone really think drivers will be grateful for a few cents a gallon less at the pump in return for the next bridge collapse?

The silver bullet, we are told, is cracking down on oil and gas speculators. While those who deal in mineral futures may be responsible for some price inflation, it is a stretch to think that curbing speculation will dramatically lower prices at the pump. At least there has been some bipartisan cooperation in by both chambers in developing an acceptable approach to a dubious solution.

Lastly, we have been told that we must dip into our Strategic Petroleum Reserve to increase supplies and lower costs. For what little difference it might make at the pump, does anyone really think Americans will sleep easier knowing we've drained our national emergency fuel supplies so it will cost the family a little less to drive to the beach?

It's clear that a solution would have to be multi-faceted and encompass finding alternative forms of energy, finding new petroleum resources through exploratory drilling, and less consumption by individuals. Saving energy is no longer a moral luxury, it's a personal responsibility.

Which brings us back to what Congress did not do this summer; pass any energy legislation at all! It's a common story in Washington when the majority party silences the minority's voice - but this year in the House proved to be more theatrical than ever. When the minority tried to force a vote on a drilling issue, the majority immediately forced a vote on adjournment and won by party line. Then the majority shut off the microphones, cameras and lights, leaving the minority to continue in silent darkness, which they did for the next four days, much to the entertainment of those occupying the full capacity public gallery. Sometimes fact is stranger than fiction.

Michelle's Law

The house passed what is being called Michelle's Law last week; this bill was at one time a possible vehicle for the HIPAA loophole repair language (HR 1076). That, unfortunately, did not happen. Michelle's law, like HR 1076, addresses a very specific deficiency in our health insurance federal code. This loophole allows insurance companies to drop coverage of a child who has graduated from high school but not enrolled in a higher education program. Michelle, a student who was diagnosed with colon cancer, was advised by her medical provider to suspend studies and focus on treating her condition full-time. She decided to stay in school because if she had dropped out, she would have been pushed off her parents insurance. Michelle suffered the ultimate consequence when she lost her battle with cancer. No Senate action has occurred on this bill as of press time.

Because of the sensitive nature of this particular bill, the committee chose to keep it a clean bill and not include the HR 1076 language. It is a frustrating but certainly understandable decision by the committee leadership and we commend them for their moral fortitude which can be rare in Washington. We also thank the committee for agreeing to find an appropriate vehicle for something similar to the HR 1076 language in the near future. The MRF will make you aware of any action on this important matter.

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