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THE
EBENEZER
BRIDGE



Pennsylvania's Motorcycle Magazine





By JANICE CIGICH
PHOTOS BY GARY ANDERSON

Matt started off the March meeting with a call out to Vinney- how many days until spring, the response was 12 (which by now we have finally made it). Six members rode to the meeting. We celebrated new members, birthdays, and a retirement. Membership cards were available for pickup, anyone not at the meeting can pick them up at the store. We received three thankyou's. One from the Newhouse family. The second from Special Olympics stating that "our support is critical". A third from Senator Kim Ward for our outreach to Clairveiw School. Several Reminders: With the riding season coming up check the tire pressure and key fob batteries, Summer and Fall Rally room reservations are going fast. Jamie and LaJennifer reviewed the 2023 Ride schedule, the first one April 16th to Murrysville Alliance Blessing of the Bikes. Kori introduced the Z&M Harley-Davidson 55th anniversary shirts she designed using the Harley Davidson 120 anniversary colors. The 55th anniversary party will be Saturday, July 29th- put that on your calendar. She demonstrated the cooler backpack promo that starts April 1st , a lucky member got to take it home. The 50/50 winner received \$570.00 dollars. There were four happy recipients of the \$50.00 Z&M HD gift cards- one went to a new member, great way start out. The membership drawing will be \$800.00 next month, the member whose card was drawn was absent.

THE LATEST FROM LATROBE H.O.G.



The highlight of the meeting was the introduction of the 8th Annual Reason-To-Ride 2023. Over 28 weeks there are 14 destinations all to support one amazing Reason-To-Ride. A little history, since 2016 Reason-To-Ride has raised over \$200,000.00 dollars through the badge sales, donations from the participating restaurants, and prize auctions at the riders party. Badges can be purchased at Z&M Harley-Davidson for \$10.00 . This is not limited to only Harley riders. Anyone can purchase and participate, any type bike, car, etc. The badge purchase is the ticket to the riders party on Sunday October 8th. Each of the restaurants has a unique punch for the badges. Receive a minimum of 1 punch to be eligible to win prizes at the party. In total over \$5,000 in prizes will be given away. Anyone who receives all 14 punches will be eligible to win the grand prize, a \$3,000 Z&M gift card.

- The restaurants chosen this year include:
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Dawg's Sports Bar & Grill | Rostraver, Pa |
| Cocos Prodigious Food Artisans | Greensburg , Pa |
| Aumer's Sports Bar & Grill | Mt Pleasant , Pa |
| Jimmy Joy's Log Cabin Inn | Hancock, Md |
| Firehouse Tap & Grill | Meadville , Pa |
| Off The Rak Restaurant &Bar | Ebensburg, Pa |
| Country Custard Cottage | Sutersville, PA |
| Dolly's Diner | North Apollo, Pa |
| Pine Lodge Steakhouse | Deep Creek , Md |
| Rachel's Roadhouse- Mercer | Mercer, Pa |
| Tipsy Pig | Connellsville, Pa |
| Fat Daddy's Place | Ligonier, PA |
| Dock 9 Bar & Grill | East Brady, Pa |
| Jaffre's Stone Bar & Kitchen | Latrobe, Pa |

The beneficiary of Reason -To- Ride 2023 announced is Variety, the Children's Charity.

Variety's mission is to empower children with disabilities to live life to the fullest by providing life-changing mobility and communication equipment to ensure our most vulnerable kids are no longer left out, behind, or excluded. Simply helping kids be kids. Sounds familiar as at Latrobe HOG we say " we are doing it for the kids".

Variety started in Pittsburgh in 1927 to help one child, today they cover 59 counties in Pennsylvania and 12 counties northern West Virginia. There are three programs ; My Bike, My Stroller, My Voice. My Bike Program provides adaptive bikes to children with physical disabilities so that they can experience the joy, freedom, and belonging that comes from riding a bike alongside friends and family. My Stroller Program provides adaptive strollers to children with physical disabilities for on-the- go mobility enabling safety and inclusion while out and about in the community. My Voice Program provides communication devices to children with communication disorder to give them a voice and enable them to express their thoughts, feelings, wants, and needs. All equipment is provided at no cost to families that meet the program's guidelines. In total more than 6,000 adaptive bikes, adaptive strollers, and communication devices have been presented by Variety since November of 2012, worth more than an astounding \$9.1 million in equipment.

The kickoff for Reason-To- Ride was held at Z&M Harley- Davidson on Saturday , March 11th. Such an exciting day! The first adaptive bike was given away. On hand was Charlie LaVallee from Variety. He talked about the organization and told us stories about several children that have benefited from the programs. One of the most heartfelt was hearing about a child that through using the communication device was so proudly able to place his own order at Chick-fil-A. He described how a family receiving an adaptive stroller was now able to take their child with them on daily outings, the mobility of the child was not suitable for a traditional and difficult to transport wheelchair. After a grape soda toast offered up by Charlie , Travis was presented with his adaptive bike, lime green color personally selected by him. A grateful family was so happy to see him pedal away leading a parade on a tour of the store The parade included our Latrobe HOG director , Matt, on a bike. Anyone that was there can attest to the value of this year's chosen charity for the Reason-To-Ride 2023. The smiles on the family, the Variety staff, those attending the event, and especially Travis – PRICELESS. Get your badges, go for a ride, eat some good food, worry about dieting another time, support a child that can use some new wheels or a way to communicate.