

## NCOM NEWS BYTES

*compiled and edited by* **Bill Bish - May 2001**  
National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM)

NCOM CONVENTION "JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER!" As NCOM Chairman Doc Reichenbach was making last minute preparations for the 16th Annual NCOM Convention in Orlando, Florida, May 10-12, 2001, he told Bill Bish, NCOM Executive Director, that "I just want everyone to say that this was the best Convention ever!"

By the time the National Coalition of Motorcyclists' Convention wound down to the Silver Spoke Awards Banquet on Saturday night, it was clear to the nearly 1,100 conventioners that this really was the best one ever! But, as Bish pointed out during his keynote speech at the banquet, "The funny thing is, that's what we hear every year!"



Aside from the record attendance, full agenda and thought-provoking seminars, one of the things that made this year's Convention special was that we got to help ABATE of Florida and the Confederations of Clubs of Florida, our Convention Hosts, celebrate their newly won Freedom of Choice on helmets!

"Celebrate Freedom" was the theme for the Convention, and Florida now makes the fifth state to repeal their mandatory adult helmet law in the five years since bikers from across the country worked together to repeal the federal helmet law mandates.

But Freedom isn't just about helmets, and Convention seminars focused on other proactive, pro-motorcycle legislation, such as equal access (biker anti-discrimination), handlebar height repeals, blue dot tail light laws, multiple bike parking and other ideas that would benefit motorcycle riders.

"Freedom TO" also means "Freedom FROM," and the 2001 Convention featured discussions about legislation and regulations that we must address in order to maintain our rights to ride free, such as universal construction standards that could impact the way our motorcycles are made, and impending environmental regulations that could choke the life out of motorcycling. At the A.I.M. Attorney Conference, convention-goers learned about legal efforts by our Aid to Injured Motorcyclists attorneys such as protecting our First Amendment right of free speech regarding wearing club colors, and fighting biker discrimination and police harassment through the courts.

From the rousing Pledge of Allegiance led by Wisconsin State Senator Dave Zien during the Opening Ceremonies, to the life-saving "Accident Scene Management" seminar by Slider Gilmore that concluded the conference, the 2001 NCOM Convention provided attendees with the knowledge, information and motivation to lead the motorcycle rights movement onward and upward.

Recipients of this year's Silver Spoke Awards were: GOVERNMENT - Florida State Representative Nancy Argenziano; COMMERCE - Rey Sotelo, Founder of Indian Motorcycle; MEDIA - Lee Love, founder of Motorcycle NewsWire; LEGAL - Minnesota A.I.M. Attorney Stephen O'Brien; the year 2001 RON ROLOFF LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD was presented to James "Doc" Reichenbach II, President and Lobbyist for ABATE of Florida, Inc., and Chairman of the Board for the National Coalition of Motorcyclists; and SPECIAL RECOGNITION - "Rotten Roger" Hendricks, ABATE of Oregon. SPECIAL AWARDS were presented to Florida State Senator Burt Saunders and Florida State Representative Dave Russell, who were instrumental in getting Florida's helmet modification bill enacted, and to the Kentucky Motorcycle Association/KBA for their successful efforts to remove motorcyclists from the state's anti-gang law.

Next year's NCOM Convention will be held at the Downtown Radisson in New Orleans, Louisiana, May 9-11, 2002. Call NCOM at (800) 525-5355 for more details.

Source: [http://www.on-a-bike.com/enews/bill/01\\_bill\\_05.htm](http://www.on-a-bike.com/enews/bill/01_bill_05.htm)