



Return of ECMC's "In Person" Holiday Party

We're very happy to announce that our 58th Annual Holiday Party and Gift Drive returns to the Stonewall Inn as an in-person event this December 4th (with a few changes). There are no pre-event online ticket sales this year – doors open at 6pm and there will be a two-tier pricing: \$10 with a gift for Rising Ground, or \$20 without a gift (\$10 of which being given directly to Rising Ground).

We understand that in these challenging times, it's difficult to plan ahead. We also respect that COVID-19 has been a financial hit for many of our friends. With these factors in mind, we have made coming to our party something less stressful: feeling unwell, don't go and there's no worry about trying to get your money back. We've also significantly lowered the entry price and will be serving our snacks and appetisers in a safe manner to mitigate COVID-19 concerns. We have faith that if we do it this way, people will come and have fun with little fear of COVID-19 transmission.



Once again, our door prizes will be selected via "Chinese auction" (I've been told that the new P.C. term for this is called "pick-a-prize"). All door prizes will be on display with a paper bag next to each item. You will be provided some tickets at the door and handed out throughout the night by our hosts when you correctly answer some trivia questions. Near the end of the event, our brother Jack and our special guest host, Hibiscus will randomly choose the winning ticket from each sack! Bidders can place as many tickets as they want in a particular item's paper sack, increasing their chances of winning the item. Following our party, do not feel rushed out the door – there will be a live drag show, and you're all welcome to stay and enjoy the fun!



Empire City MC's 58th Annual Holiday Party and Gift Drive to benefit Rising Ground Children's Services

Saturday, December 4th 2021
6pm – 9pm at the historic Stonewall Inn
53 Christopher St, NYC

With special guest host: Hibiscus!

**\$10 with a gift at the door,
or \$20 without a gift at the door.**

- Fantastic door prizes.
- Plenty of light fare all night!
- Stay for the show starting at 9pm!



To prevent transmission of disease, gift cards are preferred over tangible items. Although no suitable gift for 0-18 year olds kids will be rejected, gift cards from the following places are especially desired:

- Department Store Gift Cards
- Amazon Gift Cards
- Clothing Store Gift Cards
- Modell's Sporting Goods Gift Cards
- Apple iTunes Gift Cards
- Other appropriate stores in the NYC area

Rising Ground is a New York City based non-profit organisation that helps families discover their own strengths and build upon those strengths using evidence-based models with proven records of achievement. They work with each family and family member to resolve the conflicts that brought them to a crisis point, working toward a belief that change is possible. Then they work together to create plans that become the roadmap to the family's — and each family member's — success. As families set their own goals, we also guide them to any additional resources needed, such as food, housing, or healthcare. The work isn't just about helping families address momentary crises. They equip them with communication skills, knowledge of resources and a network of support.

For more information about our event, or to donate a door prize, please contact us by e-mail at: ecmc@empirecitymc.com

To better cope with COVID-19 restrictions and possible illness, there are NO pre-event ticket sales this year – all tickets are at the door.

This is an indoor event. As per NYC law: Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is mandatory for entry.



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Highway Bill Passes... a Year Late

After a 13-month delay and enactment of three separate extensions, Congress finally passed a surface transportation reauthorization bill. This bill, sometimes called the highway bill or the infrastructure bill, has been a hotly debated topic in D.C. for several years. Once signed by the President, the bill will reauthorize many highway programs, provide funding for road and bridge construction and replace the previous highway bill passed in 2015, known as the FAST Act.

Just a week ago, Congress gave itself a third extension running into December. Yet election victories by Republican candidates, especially a win by the GOP in the Virginia governor's race, seems to have spooked Democrats, and motivated passage of a bill that has been awaiting a vote since the summer.



For the last two years, the House of Representatives and Senate have battled over transportation priorities and funding levels. In both 2020 and 2021, the House of Representatives passed versions of their highway bill, only to be rebuffed by the Senate. Under pressure from President Biden, the Senate finally acted, passing in August a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill. This action by the Senate, effectively forced the House to accept the Senate version of the bill or continue to pass short term extensions of current law.



However, pressure from the left wing of the Democratic party delayed a vote on the Senate's infrastructure bill until an unconnected piece of legislation, referred to as the "human infrastructure bill," was agreed to. That bill, called "Build Back Better," had an original price tag of \$3.5 trillion and effectively held the infrastructure bill hostage. After months of debate, and Tuesday's election results, House Democrats agreed to vote on a smaller Build Back Better bill later in the month, opening the door to a final vote on the infrastructure bill.

At 11:27pm last Friday night, the House agreed to the Senate's bill and passed a \$1.2 trillion 5-year highway bill, known as the INVEST ACT. The final vote in the House was 228 to 206, with 13 Republicans voting in favour and 6 Democrats voting against.

While not a perfect bill, there are victories for bikers contained in the 2,740 pages of legislation.

First and foremost, the Motorcyclist Advisory Council (MAC) will be re-established with this new law. The MAC is a forum, within the U.S. Department of Transportation, specifically focused on motorcycle issues. The council is required to provide biannual reports to Congress on three critical areas:

1. Motorcycle and motorcyclist safety.
2. Barrier and road design, construction and maintenance practices.
3. The architecture and implementation of intelligent transportation system technologies.

Importantly, the new MAC will have expanded membership of 13 members, including one designated member from a "National Motorcyclist Foundation."

Second, grant money allocated to states through the Section 405 funds, specifically dedicated to motorcycle safety, will be increased with this new law. In 2021, approximately \$4.2 million dollars was distributed to states for motorcycle safety programs. With this new law, close to \$5.1 million dollars will be set aside for grants related to motorcycle safety programs in 2022.

Last year 45 states applied for and were given money for the education and implementation of motorcycle safety programs. The five-year length of this bill will see those funds continue to grow year over year, providing important resources to states for safety training.

Finally, the bill leaves unchanged hard-fought provisions from past highway bills. These include the ban on using federal funds to create motorcycle only check points and a prohibition on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) actively lobbying state governments on pending legislation.

It is unfortunate that it took 13 months from the original expiration date of September 30, 2020, to finally pass a new highway bill. This bill does not meet all the needs of bikers, but it does take some positive steps to ensure motorcyclists remain part of the transportation network. With your help, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) will continue to fight for motorcyclists' priorities left unaddressed in this bill. Issues related to the profiling of bikers, autonomous vehicles and ethanol regulations are just a few of the areas that this bill falls short on. The MRF is committed to these priorities and remains the voice of the street rider in Washington, D.C.

The final vote on infrastructure was 228-206. Here are the folks who crossed the aisle: GOP YES votes: Katko, Bacon, Van Drew, Young, Upton, Kinzinger, Gonzalez, Fitzpatrick, Reed, Gabarino, Malliotakis, McKinley, and Smith of New Jersey. Dem NO votes: AOC, Omar, Bush, Bowman, Pressley, and Rashida Tlaib.

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Some Featured Rides & Events from our calendar:

Wed 1st December, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month by teleconference only at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM> - all interested gay motorcycle owners encouraged to attend! Initial nominations for 2022 Officers at this meeting!

Fri 3rd – Sun 5th December: EVENT: Empire City MC's 58th Annual Gift Drive & Holiday Party Weekend:

Fri Dec 3rd: EVENT: Excelsior MC's Trim-A-Tree
Sat Dec 4th: EVENT: ECMC's 58th Annual Gift Drive & Holiday Party

Wed 5th January 2022, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month by teleconference only at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM> - all interested gay motorcycle owners encouraged to attend! Elections of new officers to be held at this meeting!

January 2022 - TBD: EVENT: Installation of new ECMC Officers. We might be doing it differently this coming year!!

Wed 2nd February, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month by teleconference only at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM> - all interested gay motorcycle owners encouraged to attend!

REMEMBER: There are plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Be sure to bookmark <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> and come along with us on some great rides! Our physical mailing address is: **Empire City MC, 10 W 15th St, Suite 609, New York, NY 10011-6821.**

For membership information, visit <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> to view and download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're on social media at <https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc> where you can chat with us.

Please send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org
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