

Mason Dixon Conference - Spring 2011

Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2011 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

The meeting was called to order by John Bull (MDC Chairman). The meeting was taped and for brevity purposes, these minutes represent the highlights of the meetingⁱ.

Executive Board Roll-Call		
<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Present at Meeting</i>
Chairman	John Bull (MD-III)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vice Chairman	Mike Pollinger (DE-I)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	Keith Chase (VA-II)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	Richard Clark (NC-XVI)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
International Rep	Dan Moeser (TN-VI)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

State Representatives and Other Appointed Positions Roll-Call		
<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Present at Meeting</i>
Delaware State Rep	Bert Littleton (DE-I)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky State Rep	Ruben Gardner (KY-II)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland State Rep	Steve Smith (MD-I)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina State Rep	JJ Lightner (NC-XVII)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee State Rep	T.C. Hicks (TN-III)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virginia State Rep	Mike Hart (VA-III)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia State Rep	Carl Pace (WV-II)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chaplin	Mike Williams (MD-I)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quartermaster	Pat Moeser (TN-VI)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Safety Officer	D.W. Conners (VA-V)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sergeant-at-Arms	Paul Domingoes (VA-II)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Webmaster	Stefan Hellersperk (NC-XVIII)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Agenda Items

1. Welcome – Moment of Silence.
2. Opening Prayer – Mike Williams (MDC Chaplin).
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance.
4. Reading of Blue Knights Pledge – Chairman Bull.

5. Chapter Roll-Call and Report – Keith Chase (MDC Secretary). Roll-Call was conducted and the below listed Chapters were represented at the meeting:

Delaware-I	Kentucky-II	Maryland-I	Maryland-III ¹
Maryland-IV	North Carolina-II	North Carolina-IV	North Carolina-VI
North Carolina-XIII ²	North Carolina-XVI ³	North Carolina-XVII	North Carolina-XVIII
North Carolina-XIX	North Carolina-XXI	North Carolina-XXIV	Tennessee-III ⁴
Tennessee-VI ⁵	Virginia-II	Virginia-III	Virginia-V ⁶
West Virginia-II			

There are 77 Chapters in the conference and 21 Chapters were represented at the meeting for a percentage of 27% in attendance. There were 75 members, spouses and guests in attendance at the meeting.

6. Chairman Bull recognized the VIP's in attendance:
- a. Lon Strayer (BOG Vice Chairman) and Jimmy Schneider (BOG Secretary).
 - i. Next meeting of the BOG will be at International Convention, in July. Monday morning at 9:00 am. Agenda will be on International's website.
 - b. Past International Presidents – Mike Ripsch and Ronnie Young.
7. Tim Brady (President, NC-XXI) was recognized to provide “Host Chapter Remarks”. Tim thanked all for attending and hoped that everyone had a great time at their first attempt to host a Conference event. Tim stated he believes his Chapter has learned and grown a lot, planning the event.
8. Chairman's Remarks: Chairman Bull thanked the host Chapter for putting on a great event and looks forward to returning in the future. Chairman Bull stated that at the International Convention in July, he was planning to host a Mason Dixon Open-House, in his room. The Open-House will be on Tuesday afternoon from 2-4 pm and the MDC Board members will be present [Ronnie Young injected that he would find a larger room, at the Convention, for the Open-House]. *See the newsletter for more information from the Chairman.*
9. Secretary's Report (Keith Chase): The meeting minutes and newsletter from the Winter Conference were completed and sent out to the State Reps, to be forwarded on to the Chapter Presidents, along with the MDC Ride List. The Webmaster will keep the most recent three newsletters on the MDC web. Motion to accept the minutes from the Winter 2011 meeting was made from the floor, seconded and voted unanimously. Eric Mines asked if the process to send the minutes, as mentioned above is the future way of disseminating the information...Chairman Bull advised that it was and the information would be on the MDC Website, as well.
10. Treasurer's Report (Rick Clark): Financial Report – As of 05/25/2011 – Checking Account Balance = \$13,004.16
- Deposits
 - MDC Dues deposit – \$1325.00
 - QM sales deposit – \$2583.41
 - Debits
 - Miscellaneous Expenses – (\$10.00)
 - Donations – (\$770.00)

¹ John Bull produced a voting authorization letter from James Miller - Chapter President

² Gary Folsom produced a voting authorization letter from John Gerber - Chapter President

³ Rich Clark produced a voting authorization letter from John Rogers - Chapter President

⁴ Alan Blankenship produced a voting authorization letter from TC Hicks - Chapter President

⁵ Dan Moeser produced a voting authorization letter from Chris Carney - Chapter President

⁶ Ronnie Young produced a voting authorization letter from Wes Wassum - Chapter President

- Int'l Check for Members - \$2686.00
- Executive Officer's Registrations – (\$450.00)
- MDC Coin Order – (\$1794.00)

Detailed copy of the Treasurer's report has been posted to the Secretary's Book.

A motion to accept the financial report, as provided, was made from the floor, seconded and voted unanimously.

Notes:

- *We have 72 of 77 Chapters that have paid their dues...that gives us 94 % paid!*
- *The Chapter Coin has completely sold out the first run production.*
- *Donations:*
 - *\$250 to the Red Cross for the Earthquake/Tsunami Relief.*
 - *\$500 to Blue Knights COPSRUN.*

11. International Representative's Report (Dan Moeser)

- Since my last report, Pat and I the Southern Regional Conference, hosted by Louisiana-XII. Below are highlights since the MDC Winter 2011 meeting:
 - All actual minutes from the International meetings are now posted online in the Members Only area. Please refer to them for details on the below updates.
 - Fall issue of the International Newsletter will contain the Sales Catalog.
 - As of the May meeting, Tri-State has overtaken the MDC by 7 members. MDC has 2686.
 - International Scholarships – International has 5 scholarships available and only one person applied. The deadline was extended to 1 June.
 - Sexual Harassment Policy is almost completed and should be ready by the Convention.
 - Legal Committee is working on the OMG issue to ensure the Blue Knights are not listed as an OMG.
 - There have been two (2) official bids for the 2013 Convention...Arkansas-IV (Eureka Springs, AR) and Tennessee-I (Memphis, TN).
 - Vests...Both old and new ones are on back order (no time limit on the back order).
 - Proposals (requiring by-law changes):
 - Move the inaugural weekend (ballot counting and installation of new officers) from Bangor, ME to the site of the International Convention: What this means is the next inaugural weekend will be at the 2013 International Convention...current officers will serve an additional six months. Proposal passed and will remain in effect unless overturned by 75% of the membership at the 2011 International Convention.
 - Verification Committee: Moved to the December prior to the Convention/Inaugural Weekend. Proposal passed and will remain in effect unless overturned by 75% of the membership at the 2011 International Convention.
 - International Donations: Give monetary donations to established Tax-exempt donations. Proposal passed.
 - DISCUSSION INITIATED BY RONNIE YOUNG:
 - Question to International Rep: "Why is it that these proposals are not published early enough to give time to the Reps to bring them back to the Conference and obtain Chapter President's approval"?
 - Response by International Rep: "I received these 10 days ahead of the meeting, I

immediately sent this to the MDC Board for discussion...there is not enough time to obtain all 77 President's responses". "The MDC Board and the Board of Directors approved these changes and they did not appear controversial.

- Response by BOG Secretary (Jimmy Schneider): "It was discussed with opposition that these be tabled but most felt it was important to vote (up/down) in order to get these in front of the membership in July, at the Convention".
 - Ballot Casting: Committee was tasked to look at this issue...the Committee did not have enough time to make a proposal before the meeting.
 - Comments by Mike Ripsch and Rick Clark (both on the committee): Regarding the procedures manual under review about how the ballots are cast and counted...will not require a by-law change. All MDC Board Members are in total agreement that the balloting needs to be outsourced
 - Motion by Eric Mines: That the MDC International Rep make a motion at the next board meeting "that all future International elections be outsourced with the details to be determined by the board; such as vendor, logistics, location, etc".
 - There was discussion from Ronnie Young, Eric Mines and Dan Moeser.
 - Call for the question - Motion to end the discussion, seconded and passed by all voting members with the exception of Dan Moeser, who voted against.
 - Call for the vote - Motion was voted and passed by all voting members with the exception of Dan Moeser, who voted against.
 - Members-at-Large: MDC has 6. MALs are considered Conference members but paperwork is processed at Headquarters, with no comments/action from a Chapter or the Conference Boards. Headquarters verifies there "paper work". There is a tabled proposal for the Conferences to verify and sign applications prior to the applications going forward to International. QUESTION: Should the Conference be involved in the process? The overwhelming majority agrees that the Conference should be involved and should use their own process.
 - During the discussion it was mentioned that the 50 mile rule was an issue as there is no defined location as where the 50 mile rules is...is it the Chartering Address or the Mailing Address? This can be different.
- Questions by Ronnie Young to International Rep (Dan Moeser):
 - Ronnie's comment regarding vests – "if we are having that much trouble getting the vest, they can't be the only ones making vest".
 - (Q)Past International President Issue – Can you enlighten us on the details of the investigation, now that it is over?
 - (A) Dan Moeser's response – "The board received a letter from the lawyer indicating that it was found that the person did do things that were not becoming of an officer and also inappropriate actions that did not rise to the initial charge of sexual harassment."
 - (Q) Corporate Attorney – "Did he resign?"
 - (A) Dan Moeser's response – "What we were told...the Corporate Attorney that we had for 20 years chose to resign and not represent the Blue Knights anymore."
 - (Q) Reimbursement of Funds – "Why is it that after the International Board made a decision to seek redemption from some monies that was spent by certain individuals of the organization; why was that dropped?"

- (A) Dan Moeser’s response – “It was not dropped, it was re-voted on according to Robert’s Rules...one of the people that voted for that proposal (bill for telephone calls to the Lawyer) made a motion to reconsider.”
- Comment by Ronnie Young – Directed to the entire MDC Executive Board: “You, the members of the Board represent us, the members, and if you are going to be puppets for the International Board...I am going to do my best to get you out of those chairs. You need to exercise the common sense that I know you have to represent the conference. You need to abstain if you feel something is being rushed.”
 - There were comments from Ronnie Young, Dan Moeser and John Bull regarding the purpose of this comment as it related to a motion made by the MDC Board, through the MDC International Rep, regarding the immediate past International President...*NOTE: The intent of the motion, from the MDC Board, was to preserve the operational aspects of International Headquarters without jeopardizing the membership status of the Past President.*

12. Vice Chairman’s Remarks: (Mike Pollinger):

- a. Thanks NC-XXI for a great weekend.
- b. As of 25 May, the MDC has 76 Chapters and 2738 members (but International had not finished counting).
- c. International Office – Check all membership cards for name, address spellings and correctness.
- d. Safety Training by DW Conners – Thanks DW for a great training session for DE-I..we had 25 riders. Anyone wishing to have DW set up the training; just contact him.
- e. Recruiting and retention - Contact for any needs.

Representatives Reports

This will be a summary of topics presented by each reporting member...more elaborate details may appear in Newsletter, if reported.

1. Delaware State Representative – Albert Littleton (DE-I):
 - Delaware has 1 Chapter.
 - *Note: See the newsletter for more information.*
2. Kentucky State Representative – Vice Chairman Pollinger reported for Ruben Gardner (KY-II):
 - Kentucky has 15 Chapters.
 - *Note: See the newsletter for more information.*
3. Maryland State Representative – Steve Smith (MD-I):
 - Maryland has 8 Chapters.
 - *Note: See the newsletter for more information.*
4. North Carolina State Representative – JJ Lightner (NC-XVII):
 - North Carolina has 23 Chapters.
 - *Note: See the newsletter for more information.*
5. Tennessee State Representative – TC Hicks (TN-III):

- Tennessee has 9 Chapters.
 - *Note: See the newsletter for more information.*
6. Virginia State Representative – Mike Hart (VA-III):
- Virginia has 16 Chapters.
 - *Note: See the newsletter for more information.*
7. West Virginia State Representative – Carl Pace (WV-II)
- West Virginia has 5 Chapters.
 - *Note: See the newsletter for more information.*
8. Conference Chaplin – Mike Williams (MD-I): Please contact Mike for all issues regarding members or family members that you wish to involve him with.
9. Conference Safety Officer – DW Conners (VA-V):
- Contact D.W. for any desired training.
 - MDC has assisted in conducting two riders workshops (Clarksburg, WV and Dover, DE)...will be doing one in Richmond, for the 2012 Winter Conference meeting.
 - There is a large parking lot at the Convention site and DW will be there all week and can set up to assist in any way one needs to better themselves and their skills.
 - Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) has plenty of courses, to include a sport bike course...get out and learn.
 - Check your tires to ensure that they are correct.
 - *Note: See the newsletter for more information regarding safety!*
10. Conference Quartermaster – Pat Moeser (TN-VI):
- MDC Challenge Coin – We have completely sold out the first order (300 coins in 5 weeks).
 - Motion by Ronnie Young, seconded on the floor, to reorder 500 more coins, with discussion concerning cost. A new order of 300 would cost \$1794 and 500 would be \$2600. Motion passed unanimously with no negative or abstention votes.
 - Motion by Rick Clark, seconded on the floor to automatically reorder (by the Executive Board either 300 or 500) FOR THE NEXT ORDER ONLY, once the coin stock gets to 150, to prevent future disruptions in sales stock. Motion passed unanimously with no negative or abstention votes.
 - The sales advertisement will be published in the next International sales catalog.

Old Business

1. MDC Scholarships – Ronnie Young. We only had four applicants for the MDC scholarship funds, which MDC voted to have 4 \$500 scholarships...The winners are:
- a. Kendall Donahue (VA-V).
 - b. Richard J. Clark, Jr (NC-XVI).
 - c. Christopher Swisher (WV-II).
 - d. Karalyn Kirkpatrick (VA-V).

2. International Scholarships – Discussion concerning possible future ways of dividing up the International Scholarship money, as there was one (as of this meeting) that had applied for the International scholarship.
3. International Convention: Ronnie Young (VA-V) updated the Conference on the International Convention. The Convention is scheduled for 17-22 July in Chesapeake. There are over 600 rooms booked with some close hotels still offering rooms. Information can be obtained at www.blueknights2011convention.org or see the attachments to the minutes and newsletter for more info.
4. Chapter Changes...Ensure that you advise the Secretary of any changes to Chapter's websites, officer's information and addresses.

New Business

1. MDC Open House at Convention: Rick Clark made a motion for the MDC to provide \$200.00 to John Bull to host a MDC Open House at the International Convention and off-set the cost; seconded by Ronnie Young. Motion passed unanimously with no negative or abstention votes.
2. Ride Schedules – Discussion has been made to move the ride schedule from the Winter Conference to the Fall Conference, to get all events in before the New Year starts. Motion made by Rich Clark and seconded on the floor to actually move the Ride List set-up dates to the Fall Conference but still let Chapters add to the list until 31 December, by sending the Secretary the events for the following year. Motion passed unanimously with no negative or abstention votes.
3. MDC Safety Rider Course – Motion made by Rich Clark and seconded on the floor to fund only one Safety Course, per year, and have the drawing at the Winter Conference (course is winners choice, with no dollar limit). If the course is not taken within a year, it is forfeited. Motion passed unanimously with no negative or abstention votes.

Announcement of Mason Dixon Conference Meetings

1. Fall Conference Meeting - 2011:
 - Hosted By: Virginia-II
 - Location: Culpeper, VA
 - Dates: 2-5 September 2011
 - Information: www.bkva-ii.org
2. Winter Conference Meeting - 2012:
 - Hosted By: Virginia-III
 - Location: Richmond, VA
 - Dates: 17-19 February 2012
 - Information: Pending
3. Spring Conference Meeting - 2012: The bidding process was open for Chapters to host this Conference. TN-III bid for Townsend, TN and NC-XXI bid for Rocky Mount, NC. NC-XXI Won.
 - Hosted By: North Carolina-XXI
 - Location: Rocky Mount, NC
 - Dates: 25-27 May 2012
 - Information: <http://www.bkncxxi.org/page.php?9>

Announcement of International Conventions

1. 2011 Convention:

- Hosted By: Virginia-V
- Location: Chesapeake, VA
- Dates: 17-22 July 2011
- Info: <http://www.blueknights2011convention.org/>

Good of the Order

1. Ronnie Young asked if anyone was aware of any Blue Knights in Joplin, MO that needed assistance...no one was aware but Chairman Bull will check again. After discussion, it was requested to check with all of the southern states to see if there are any Knights that need assistance.
2. Ronnie Young thank everyone (the entire organization) for the notes and emails concerning his wife's double by-pass surgery. She is on the road to recovery.
3. Jimmy Schneider invited everyone to Tri-State's fall conference (Columbus Day Weekend – 8 through 10 October 2011) being hosted by NY-XIV Hudson Valley, NY.
4. Chapter Sales Permits need to be sent to International, immediately. NLT 1 June 2011. Send sales catalog items to Mike Fletcher.

Adjournment – 12:30 pm. Next meeting 10:00 am / 3 September 2011 at the 2011 Fall Conference

Contact Information	Website: www.bkmdc.org	Secretary's Contact Email: keith.a.chase@comcast.net Phone: 703-893-1823 Fax: 571-748-4240
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SIGNIFICANT NOTES SINCE THE MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

1. International Representative's Position:
 - a. On 29 May 2011, Dan Moeser resigned the position as the MDC International Rep.
 - b. On 31 May 2011, the MDC Board held an Executive Session (via conference-call), to discuss the Executive Board's options to fulfill the vacancy left by the resignation of the Dan Moeser. A review of the By-Laws was conducted and it was determined that the Board was responsible to name a replacement.
 - c. Eric Mines, the Immediate Past International Representative was asked to fulfill the vacancy until the next election, which he agreed.
2. MDC Quartermaster Position:
 - a. On 2 June 2011, Pat Moeser resigned her appointment as the MDC Quartermaster.
 - b. The MDC Board has decided not to appoint anyone to serve as the Quartermaster, at this time.

ⁱ File size is 210MB in MP3 format.