

Mason Dixon Conference - Fall 2011

Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2011 10:00 am – 11:30 am

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	Eric Mines (MD-I)	<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia State Rep	Carl Pace (WV-II)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chaplin	Mike Williams (MD-I)	<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 – House Keeping Note... This is the meeting that we start to pull the ride list together... Send the Secretary any rides coming in 2012, by Dec 15th and the ride list will published in early January.
2. Moment of Silence.
3. Opening Prayer – Mike Williams (MDC Chaplin).
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance.
5. Reading of Blue Knights Pledge – Chairman Bull.
6. 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
Maryland-IV	North Carolina-II ¹	North Carolina-XIII ²	North Carolina-XVI ³
North Carolina-XVII	North Carolina-XVIII	North Carolina-XXI	North Carolina-XXIV
Tennessee-III	Tennessee-VI	Virginia-II	Virginia-III
Virginia-V ⁴	Virginia-XIII	West Virginia-II	

There are 77 Chapters in the conference and 19 Chapters were represented at the meeting for a percentage of 25% in attendance. There were 68 members, spouses and guests in attendance at the meeting.

7. Chairman Bull recognized the VIP's in attendance:
 - a. Jimmy Schneider (BOG Secretary).
 - i. Minutes from the BOG Meeting in July are posted on the website.
 - b. Mike Ricard (BOG Treasurer).
 - i. Special Fund is there for any BK going to or from a sanctioned BK Event. The fund has over \$190K in the account. The request form is located on the BOG website.
 - c. Past International Presidents – Ronnie Young (was present but had to return home for work related issues).
8. John Weinstein (President, VA-II) was recognized to provide “Host Chapter Remarks”. John thanked all for attending and hoped that everyone had a great time.
9. Chairman's Remarks:
 - a. Chairman Bull asked how many had attended the International Convention in July, and the Mason Dixon Open-House? The Chairman explained that the credit goes to his wife, Darlene, who received a round of applause. The Open-House was on Tuesday afternoon from 2-4 pm and the majority of the MDC Board members were present. Thanks to Ronnie Young for finding a room to host the Open-House.
 - b. Chairman Bull stressed the need to ensure verification of membership qualifications of new applicants in light of an issue that was discovered in the MDC with regards to members that did not qualify for membership. Chapters should have some type of policy to verify qualifications.
10. 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 minutes were published in early July and the newsletter was published in early August. The plan is for the Webmaster to keep the three most recent newsletters on the MDC web. Motion to accept the minutes from the Spring 2011 meeting was made from the floor, seconded and voted unanimously. *[Jimmy Schneider commented that he would like to commend the Secretary for publishing such a wonderful, professional newsletter...he appreciated receiving it and thoroughly enjoyed reading it].*
11. Treasurer's Report (Rick Clark): Financial Report – As of 08/30/2011 – The financial report was provide in detail...This online version does not contain the actual numbers but these can be found in the President' Section on the website or by contacting your Chapter President.

¹ Jake Sanok produced a voting authorization letter from Gerald Britt - Chapter President

² Gary Folsom produced a voting authorization letter from Michael Brown - Chapter President

³ William Wright produced a voting authorization letter from John Rogers - Chapter President

⁴ DW Conners produced a voting authorization letter from Wes Wassum - Chapter President

- Deposits

- MDC Other deposit
- QM sales deposit
- Int'l Check for Members

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.

- Debits

- MDC Coin Reorder
- Chaplin Expenses
- Executive Officer's Registrations
- MDC Scholarship Payouts
- MSF Rider Course Payouts

12. International Representative's Report (Eric Mines)

- Since our last Conference meeting, the International Board has only meet on one occasion (July 19th at the International Convention). Below are highlights since the MDC Winter 2011 meeting:

- Membership: Renewal packages should be sent out by the International Office the second week of October. Please take time to read the information, make any necessary changes to ensure that the International Office has the correct information on file for your members. Also remember that no late renewal packages can be accepted after September 30, and anyone wanting to renew after that date will have to reapply the following year.
- Discounts: Coleman Power Sports has been added to the list of businesses offering discounts to our membership. They are offering a 15% discount to Blue Knights and will donate 5% of your online ordering to COPS. A list of chapter codes was sent to the conference reps to be disseminated to our chapters. This apparently took place before I resumed this position.
- Charity Stats: Over one million dollars has been donated during fiscal year 2010. This puts the Blue Knights donations of goods and services over \$14,000,000 since records have been kept. Please remember that charity stats can be reported online in the members' only section. Please try to report this info as donations are made and not all at once. Also please make sure that the information you submit is complete as some reports have been received without even identifying the chapter.
- Blue Knights News: The 2011 sales catalogue will be in the fall issue of the newsletter.
- Annual General Membership Meeting: The two by-law changes passed by the International Board of Directors in May of this year were upheld by the general membership at the International Convention. The election of the International Executive Board will now be held at the convention every two years on the odd numbered year. The other change involves changes in the dates for implementation of the verification committee to correspond to the new election dates.
- Agenda Items:
 - A proposal by the European Conference to use the internet for chapter renewals that had been tabled at the previous BOD meeting was again tabled to get more information from the International Office.
 - A proposal by the GLRC to establish a procedure for handling membership applications and renewals for members at large was approved. New applications and renewals for members at large will now be sent to the respective conferences for verification of qualification and dues collection.
 - A proposed sexual harassment policy was submitted by the legal committee. This proposal was tabled indefinitely until it is revised and approved by the BK attorneys.
 - I submitted a proposal to outsource all future international elections as voted on in our last conference meeting. Prior to submitting this proposal I spoke with several members of the Election

Procedure Committee. This committee was put in place following the 2011 ballot counting to look at other options for conducting international elections. After speaking to the committee I was assured that they are leaning in the direction of outsourcing and have put this issue on the fast track. To allow the committee to complete their work, I agreed to table this motion until the first meeting of next year. At that time our original proposal will automatically be placed on the agenda, and be assured that I will fight for what this conference voted for.

▪ The European Conference also proposed that any conference that elects not to receive the International BOD meeting minutes by mail will receive an additional \$500 in recruitment funds annually. This motion passed unanimously. This means that we will need to decide whether or not we want the minutes mailed to each chapter.

NOTE: *Please remember that my report is a synopsis of board activity. Read the full minutes which are currently on the international website and currently mailed to each chapter president.*

13. Vice Chairman's Remarks: (Mike Pollinger):

- a. Thanks VA-II for a very outstanding weekend and also for the very professional manner that the way things were organized for Frank, yesterday.
- b. As of 30 August, the MDC has 77 Chapters and 2763 members (making us the largest conference in the organization).
- c. There are two starter kits out.
- d. To reiterate, please ensure each Chapter is checking the status and validity of applicants. The board has had many challenges over the last three months in regards to membership issues and thanks to Rick Clark for his work in the inquiry if the North Carolina issues. If you have questions, contact your State Reps for assistance.
- e. When the renewal packets arrive...check the address and make any required changes.
- f. Reminder that the Recruiting and Retention money is available...contact me for details and any required assistance.

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 – Ruben Gardner (KY-II):
 - Kentucky has 15 Chapters.
 - Reported a fatality of a BK member and spouse injury when a vehicle ran a red light and broadsided the motorcycle.
 - *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.
 - TN-VII lost a member on his way to the Chapter Meeting, near Chattanooga.
 - There has been three (3) requests for Starter Kits...one has been turned in for the Greenville Area.
 - *Note: See the newsletter for more information.*
 6. Virginia State Representative – Presented by Mike Pollinger for Mike Hart (VA-III):
 - Virginia has 16 Chapters.
 - Mike was unable to attend due to damage from Hurricane Irene.
 - Reminder that VA-III (Richmond) will be hosting the 2012 Winter Conference.
 - *Note: See the newsletter for more information.*
 7. West Virginia State Representative – Nothing Presented by Carl Pace (WV-II)
 - West Virginia has 5 Chapters.
 - *Note: See the newsletter for more information.*
 8. Webmaster: Stefan was unable to attend due to the recent weather. There has been a lot of discussion about the MDC website and trying to get it more user friendly and easier updated. Options are looking at going to a different host for the website or upgrading the current software. We will be discussing this with Stefan and see what will work best for our needs.
 9. Conference Chaplin – Mike Williams (MD-I): Please contact Mike for all issues regarding members or family members that you wish to involve him with.
 10. Conference Quartermaster:
 - Pat Moeser has resigned. We have decided, at this time, not to appoint a new Quartermaster. The Secretary will be handling the sales of MDC Challenge Coin, Pins and Patches. These items are available on the VA-II website store (www.bkva-ii.org) or by mailing an order form to Keith at his home address.
 11. Conference Safety Officer – DW Conners (VA-V):
 - Contact D.W. for any desired training.
 - MDC Rider's workshops. We are looking into the liability insurance to ensure that I am covered for insurance purposes while conducting these workshops. There are two scheduled (Richmond and one in West Virginia) and then they will be curtailed until we get the liability issue fixed.
 - I am looking for the Group Riding Package that I passed out last year...Please return it!

Old Business

1. Winter Conference – Lonnie presented the run-down for the Winter Conference being hosted in Richmond by VA-III, **February 17-19, 2012.**
 - The host hotel is the [Wyndham Hotel](#) located at 4700 S. Laburnam Ave, Richmond, VA. 23231. The hotel is just minutes from the Richmond International Airport and for those who wish to fly in, a free shuttle is available 24/7 from and to the airport.
 - Rooms will be blocked for the conference and reservations should be made by calling the hotel

directly at 804. 226.4300. Advise the desk clerk it is for the Blue Knights Conference for special room rates. Upon arrival your Blue Knights ID card will have to be shown to the clerk for the special rates.

- Room rates are \$75.00/Nite+tax for either a king room or a two double bed room. Rates are also good for one to four occupants. Included in this rate is a Continental Breakfast but VA-III has been able to upgrade the rate to include a hot breakfast for two occupants.
 - Blocked rooms will be held until 27 January, 2012, and after that date the rate will be on room availability.
 - The Hospitality Room will be located on the third floor near all the rooms and will open Friday @1500 hours.
 - Conference Registration will be located in the Library Boardroom located just off the main lobby. Any chapter wishing to set up a sales table should contact VA-III by 17 December 2011.
 - Conference fees are \$75.00/pp and should be mailed to: **Blue Knights VA III, PO Box 8618, Richmond, Virginia 23226**. Make checks payable to Blue Knights, VA-III, with memo note of "Winter Conference". Make sure to include your [registration form](#) with your payment
2. 2012 International Convention – Hotel rooms in the first four hotels has been completely sold-out. Get on the International convention website and starting looking for additional rooms, if you plan to go. <http://www.blueknightstx34.org/convention2012hotels.html>

New Business

1. Elections: Reminder that nominations for the MDC Board Positions will be in Rocky Mount, next May during the Spring Conference Meeting. You must be at the meeting to be nominated.
 2. Ride Schedules – This meeting is where we start putting the following year’s ride list together. The deadline for the 2012 ride list is 15 December so it can be published in early January.
 3. American Income Life Insurance: Free Accident Disability Insurance is being provided to three Conferences...the only requirement is that the address lists be provided. Motion to investigate and research the information and bring it back to the membership at the winter meeting. Motion seconded and passed.
- NOTE: *Since this meeting International acted on this for the entire International.*

Announcement of Mason Dixon Conference Meetings

1. Winter Conference Meeting - 2012:
 - Hosted By: Virginia-III
 - Location: Richmond, VA
 - Dates: 17-19 February 2012
 - Information: Pending
2. Spring Conference Meeting - 2012:
 - Hosted By: North Carolina-XXI
 - Location: Rocky Mount, NC
 - Dates: 25-27 May 2012
 - Information: <http://www.bkncxxi.org/page.php?9>
3. Fall Conference Meeting - 2011:
 - Hosted By: Virginia-II
 - Location: Culpeper, VA
 - Dates: 31 August - 3 September 2012
 - Information: www.bkva-ii.org

Announcement of International Conventions

1. 2012 Convention:

- Hosted By: Texas-XXXIV
- Location: Tyler, Texas
- Dates: 23-27 July 2012
- Info: <http://www.blueknightstx34.org/convention2012.html>

Good of the Order

1. Eric Mines thanked everyone for the support and out-reach to him when he lost his brother.
2. Eric Mines stated that although, Frank Gillespie was a member of MD-I, he was bigger than one Chapter in the organization. He thanked everyone for the professional immediately after Frank’s death. It appears that there will be no services for Frank as that was his wish. Any information will be sent out far and wide. Eric introduced Kevin Foltz (MD-I), who lives in Winchester and was the one that went to the residence of Frank’s daughter and waited until Frank’s son arrived from out of town.
3. Rick Clark reminded everyone about Conference Dues...the dues are required by 31 Jan 2012.
4. MD-III reported that one of their members has Stage-4 cancer...please keep him and the family in your prayers.

Adjournment – 11:30 am. Next meeting 10:00 am / 19 February 2012 at the 2012 Winter 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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ⁱ File size is 119MB in MP3 format.