

Blue Knights
Mason-Dixon Conference
Fall Conference Meeting
Culpeper, VA
September 1, 2019

Minutes

1. Chairman Ronnie Young called the meeting to order at 0933 hours.
 2. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence by MDC Chaplain Mike Williams.
 3. Chairman Young read the Blue Knights Pledge.
 4. Roll Call:
 - Executive Board present:
 - Ronnie Young (VA V), Chairman
 - Keith Chase (VA II), Vice Chairman
 - John Weinstein (VA II), Secretary
 - Keith Johnson (VA XIII), Treasurer
 - Mike Pollinger (DE I), International Rep
 - State Reps and Other Appointed Positions:
 - Kentucky State Rep: Ruben Gardner (KY II)
 - Maryland State Rep: Steve Smith (MD I)
 - North Carolina State Rep: Bruce Smith (NC IV)
 - Virginia State Rep: Mike Hart (VA III)
 - West Virginia State Rep: Marshal Parker (WV III)
 - State Reps not in attendance:
 - Delaware State Rep: Bert Littleton (DE I)
 - Tennessee State Rep: Brian Gregg (TN I)
 - Chaplain: Mike Williams (MD I)
 - Safety Officer: Robert “Bud” Overby (NC VIII)
 - Sergeant-at-Arms: Tommy Hayden (VA V)
 - Webmaster: Bob Rhodes (NC XVI)
 5. Secretary Weinstein conducted the conference roll call. Chairman Young noted the low turnout and asked the state reps to speak with their respective chapters about encouraging more to attend MDC meetings. The following MDC chapters were represented (17 of 67 chapters; 25%):
 - DE I
 - KY II
 - MD: I, III
 - NC: IV, VIII, XIII, XVI, XVII
 - VA: I, II, III, V, XIII, XVII,
 - WV: I, II
- Chairman Young recognized attending VIPs:
- Past International Presidents (in addition to Ronnie Young): Frank Gennari
 - John Bull, Jr. International Treasurer
 - Mike Rickard, BOG Treasurer

- Frank Fallaw (NJ State Rep): attended but not recognized.
6. Host Chapter Remarks. John Weinstein, President of VA II thanked the attendees for attending, the VA II members' hard work, and how the fellowship of all the attendees is what makes the rally so good.
 7. Chairman's Report: Ronnie Young announced all is peaceful in the MDC. He also noted VA II picked up 4-5 new members from a defunct chapter (VA XVI).
 8. Vice Chairman Report: Keith Chase reminded all chapters to use the bk.org email address. John Bull added that the upcoming BOG elections will be conducted electronically so chapters need to use the official email address. Keith Chase said if members are having problems, they should contact him or Webmaster Bob Rhodes for assistance. Finally, Chase reminded members to keep their mailboxes cleaned out since they will fill with spam if neglected.
 9. Secretary Report: John Weinstein announced the minutes from the Spring MDC meeting had been distributed to the Executive Board and State Reps, the latter for posting to chapter presidents in their respective AORs, and posted on the MDC website. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes, which was made (MD) and seconded (NC). The motion carried unanimously without discussion.
 10. Treasurer Report: Keith Johnson reported the current MDC financial status (see website for detailed info):
 - As of September 1, 2019: total funds \$11,764.10 (counting \$1800 in hurricane disaster fund).
 - Deposits: \$75.00
 - Expenditures since May 26 – August 31: \$1759.79 [ed. Note: due to \$1000 scholarship payout].
 - Interest: \$0.30
 - Available Funds as of May 26, 2019: \$9964.10.

The Treasurer announced starting 10/20, chapter dues invoices will be sent to the BK International-registered email addresses. Please submit dues before the Winter Conference meeting. He also noted MDC taxes are in order.

11. International Representative Report: Mike Pollinger addressed the following:
 - Noted low attendance at the International Conference in NY (only 345 instead of usual 500).
 - For International elections, 16167 ballots were sent out; only about 5400 were returned. Results:
 - President: Guy O'Connor
 - Vice President: Andreas Hohendorf
 - Secretary: Jim Borza
 - Treasurer: John Bull, Jr.
 - At International, Ireland I gave a presentation on next year's conference. The presentation is on the International website.
 - All 6 International honorary members were renewed. International is trying to get VP Mike Pence as an honorary.
 - Ratified bylaws addressing membership requirements and conference vice-chairs were described. These may be viewed on the international website. All BOD and BOG minutes are found in the members' section. Your user name is your member number and your password is your last name in CAPS.

- There were no questions from the floor.
12. Web Site Report: Webmaster Bob Rhodes reported increased use of the MDC Facebook page. He also asked that chapters send ride announcements to him for posting on the website. He also offered his assistance if any chapter is having problems with the website or other electronic media. His phone is 704-534-3542.
 13. Scholarship Report: John Weinstein announced the forms for the 2020 competition will be available at the Winter Conference meeting. Ronnie Young read a thank you letter from Christopher Stott.
 14. Safety Officer Report: Bud Overby recognized VA XIII Safety Officer Tommy Webb for his diligence. He also turned the floor over to Secretary John Weinstein who discussed “Stop the Bleed” training. Weinstein will provide this training at the Winter Conference meeting. Bud asked chapters to send representatives to this training. Bud’s email address is Robert.Overby@yahoo.com.
 15. Quartermaster Report: Keith Chase reported he has MDC coins, pins and patches. These are available through the VA II website.
 16. Chaplain Report: Chaplain Mike Williams mentioned Kenny McLendon (VA V) is recuperating well from recent open heart surgery and asked the membership to keep Candy Snow’s younger brother, Paul, Wilson Abernathy; the past VA I president T’mi Finkle; and others of whom we may know nothing in our prayers.
 17. Old Business
 - Ronnie Young noted there is \$1800 in an MDC disaster relief account and asked for volunteers to work on guidelines for the fund. He wished good luck to members in the SRC and MDC areas likely to be affected by Hurricane Dorian.
 - Ronnie noted the TN I state rep position has been filled by Brian Gregg.
 - Treasurer Keith Johnson gave a summary of the Winter 2020 MDC meeting, to be held over Valentine Day weekend (February 14-16):
 - \$85 registration and \$85 per night at the Comfort Inn (call between 0800-1600 and speak with Rachel, Chrystal or Jennifer). The rate is good Thursday-Sunday.
 - See the MDC and VA XIII websites for more details. Those registering *before* December 15 will receive a T-shirt.
 - Flyers were distributed to attending Presidents and available to attendees.
 - President Ed Martin (WV II) gave an update on the Spring Conference meeting, to be held at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites, over Memorial Day.
 - Hotel rate is \$125/night. There are 69 rooms available and another 10 are expected to be added. So far, 22 rooms have been booked. Book early!
 - \$85 registration.
 18. New Business:
 - VA II was voted by acclamation to host the 2020 Fall Conference meeting. It will be the chapter’s 44th annual (and consecutive) Blue Ridge Rally.
 - Secretary John Weinstein announced he will conduct HR-218 qualifications for Virginia residents at next year’s Fall meeting. Details to follow.
 19. State Reps Reports (see chapter web sites for specific chapter events):
 - Delaware (delivered by Mike Pollinger):
 - DE I’s 36th Toy Run will be held November 11. has 86 members.
 - The 14th Ride to the Tide will be held April 19, 2020 for the Special Olympics. Only 1000 bikes will be permitted to participate in this 70-mile escorted ride.

- Kentucky: (Reuben Gardner).
 - KY XVI did not renew. He hopes a new chapter or a reconstituted chapter XVI will be established. has lost several chapters over the last few years.
 - KY II is selling \$5 raffle tickets for a Glock 43 (or \$400 in cash). Contact Ruben to purchase tickets.
 - KY III's Fall Foliage Run is September 7-8.
 - Maryland (Steve Smith):
 - Steve discussed the Slingshot's requirement to have a motorcycle endorsement in Maryland and the need to wear a helmet in VA, MD and DC. Ruben Gardner noted eventually BK bylaws would have to address such three-wheeled vehicles.
 - MD I member Dave Scrivins recently completed EMT certification. He discussed safety documentation a ride should have and where to locate it during rides.
 - North Carolina (Bruce Smith): looking into securing a hotel for the Law Enforcement Unity tour. Otherwise, things in NC are slow.
 - Tennessee: no report.
 - Virginia (delivered by Mike Butler, VA III):
 - Mike Hart and Mike Butler discussed efforts to secure a BK license plate for Virginia cars, trucks and motorcycles (but not trailers). A minimum of 450 commitments are needed. To date, 41 applications have been received. Check the VA III website for additional details. When sending in required paperwork, make sure to send a copy of the front and back of your BK membership card. [This subject was also discussed under Good of the Order but all information is consolidated here.]
 - VA III *will* do a toy run on November 2, to support the Salvation Army. Registration begins at 0900. Cost is \$10 plus an unwrapped gift for a child age 0-14. Details on website.
 - VA V: planning a meet and greet.
 - VA VIII: Benefit ride on October 12. See the flyer on the website.
 - West Virginia (Marshall Parker):
 - Wild and Wonderful will be held in conjunction with the MDC 2020 Spring Conference in Elkins, noted above.
 - Gold Star Mothers statue, supported by and recognizing BK/West Virginia support, will be dedicated in the state capital on October 2. A WWII Medal of Honor winner will attend.
 - Marshall described some Pagan/Hell's Angels OMG conflict. He also noted the Pagans claim the entire east coast of the US and advised BK members to exercise situational awareness.
20. Good of the Order
- Ronnie Young updated members on VA V's Summer Bash on July 22-26, 2020 for those who are unable to attend the International meeting in Ireland in June 2020. The Summer Bash will have no meetings or politics. Registration is \$109 per person (\$200 for a couple) and room costs at the Delta by Marriott will be \$109 per night. These numbers are tentative; arrangements are being finalized so more info will be forthcoming.
 - No bid has been received to host the 2021 International Conference. International President asked VA V to consider hosting and the chapter is considering (but has

- not committed to) hosting. There are also “rumors” that hosts may be identified in Las Vegas, Pennsylvania and Cody (WY).
- For those going to Ireland (check International website for details), the following information was provided:
 - Shannon airport is 161 miles from the registration site.
 - Roads in Ireland are much narrower and are left-hand drive.
 - Blue Cross/Blue Shield and other US insurance policies may not cover you in Ireland, so check your coverage before riding there.
 - Helmets requirements are stricter.
 - You may need a passport and possibly an International Driver’s License from AAA to rent a bike so do your homework.
 - US credit cards with chips may also require a PIN for use.
 - Frank Gennari, former International President, described NC’s Caisson Unit. This unit provides services at no charge to first responders in NC, SC, TN, AL and GA who suffer LOD deaths. Unit members fund this worthy initiative with little government support; most funds come out of their own pockets. A fundraising ride will be held next week in Smithfield, Wayne County, NC. Check with Frank for details.
 - Mike Rickard, BOG Treasurer, discussed the Special Fund. 70 chapters and 1 conference made contributions last year. There has been one payout this year to date.
 - Dave Scrivins discussed rider safety: dress for the crash, let people riding with you about your medical conditions/meds (EMTs cannot search your person), and tell them if you are armed so your weapon can be secured if needed.

21. Chaplain Mike Williams offered a closing prayer.

22. The meeting was adjourned at 1115 hours, followed by a grateful rush to the door.

Respectfully submitted,
John Weinstein
Secretary