

Blue Knights  
Mason-Dixon Conference  
Winter Conference Meeting  
College Park, MD  
May 26, 2019

Minutes

1. Chairman Ronnie Young called the meeting to order at 0932 hours.
2. A moment of silence was followed by a prayer by MDC Chaplain Mike Williams. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Chairman Young read the Blue Knights Pledge.
4. Roll Call:
  - Executive Board:
    - 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)
    - West Virginia State Rep: Marshal Parker (WV III)
    - State Reps not in attendance:
      - North Carolina State Rep: Bruce Smith (NC IV)
      - Virginia State Rep: Mike Hart (VA III)
      - Tennessee State Rep: James Malone (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 (15 of 66 chapters; 23%):
  - DE I
  - KY II
  - MD: I
  - NC: VI, VIII, XIII, XVI
  - TN: IX
  - VA: I, II, III, V, XIII
  - WV: I, IIChairman Young recognized attending VIPs, who complimented MD I’s hospitality:
  - John Bull, International Treasurer
  - Keith Bowers, Chairman, Tri-State Conference

- Dominic Squillace, Vice Chairman, Tri-State Conference
6. Host Chapter Remarks. Fred Allen, President of MD I thanked the attendees for attending and said he hoped everyone had a good time. He noted it was his chapter's pleasure to host the event and received loud applause from the members present.
  7. Chairman's Report: Ronnie Young announced all is peaceful in the MDC. He asked for but received no questions.
  8. Vice Chairman Report: Keith Chase announced there are 66 chapters in the MDC with 2041 members. (Note: this is a decline from December 31, 2018, when there were 71 chapters and 2299 members.). There are no new chapters and no new starter kits out. He was asked no questions.
  9. Secretary Report: John Weinstein announced the minutes from the Winter 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 and seconded. The motion carried without discussion or dissent.
  10. Treasurer Report: Keith Johnson noted 59 of 68 chapters have renewed to date and TN I will renew soon. A letter noting the need to renew will be sent out soon. He provided the following account info, consolidated below:
    - As of February 12, 2019: \$14,355.91 (available funds: \$12,555.91)
    - Deposits (February 15-May 15, 2019): \$140.00
    - Expenditures since March 1- May 15: \$1147.62
    - Interest: \$0.30
    - Total: \$13448.59 (minus set-aside Disaster Relief Fund of \$1800)
    - Available Funds as of May 26, 2019: \$ 11648.59

The Treasurer asked for the Report from the last MDC meeting to be approved. MD I and VA V moved and seconded the motion which passed without discussion or dissent. Finally, he noted that some chapters still need to complete their Federal 2018 IRS declaration. If chapters need their tax ID, they can obtain it by calling Jenna at International Headquarters. Keith said the form is easy but offered his help on filling it out if needed by any chapter.

11. International Representative Report: Mike Pollinger addressed the following:
  - Thanked MD I for a great meeting and Eric Mines for driving the tour bus.
  - The property at 22 Alden Street has been sold for \$235,000.
  - International election ballots have been mailed. Chapters can submit them en masse but each ballot needs to be inserted into both the provided envelopes (security and mailing) according to instructions. Ballots are due nlt August 1. Mike complimented Bob Awtrey and the Election Committee for their good work getting the ballots distributed. All attendees at the meeting acknowledged receiving their ballots. (*Comment: If any members haven't received the ballots, contact MDC Vice Chair Keith Chase.*)
  - Ireland I has received permission to post info for the 2020 International meeting and start taking registrations and reservations as of June 24, 2019, but only for members outside CONUS according to a comment made by Treasurer John Bull. John also noted US members will be able to register and book reservations after the International business meeting in Rye.
  - The next international call will take place on August 6, 2019.

- If any members have issues they want to place on the agenda for the International meeting in Rye, NY, you must get them to Mike nlt July 2.
  - There were no questions from the floor.
12. Web Site Report: Bob Rhodes noted website use is down 2% but use of the Facebook page is up. Bob asked all chapter event posters be sent to him for posting on the MDC 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 noted 2 awards of \$500 each were awarded to Christopher Stott and Adam Radwick, whose fathers are members of Virginia V and II respectively. John Read a letter from Adam Radwick. The letter is attached to these minutes.
  14. Safety Officer Report: Bud Overby noted he had distributed copies of the T-Clock motorcycle inspection sheet to many at the meeting and asked for this document to be distributed to the conference membership. The form is attached. Bud also reminded the attendees that riding is just like identifying safety violations at the firearms range: anybody can do it. He hosted a safety seminar at the Spring Conference and offered help to any chapter safety officers who seek his assistance. Bud's email address is [Robert.Overby@yahoo.com](mailto:Robert.Overby@yahoo.com).
  15. Quartermaster Report: Keith Chase noted he has 286 coins, 41 MDC pins and over 20 patches. There was discussion of the high price of cling-on patches. Keith reported on various types of decals (vinyl and static stick on) and was authorized by a unanimous vote to spend up to \$220 for 125 static decals.
  16. Chaplain Report: None. Mike mentioned Scott Elkins (WV I) and Ernie Davis (NC XVI) who are recovering from serious motorcycle accidents and Spike Johnson (VA V) who had major surgery. Mike asked us to keep them 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 but no claims were made after the last hurricane. Ronnie asked for volunteers to meet with him after the meeting if they would like to work on guidelines for the fund.
    - Ronnie noted the TN I state rep position is open.
    - Finally, Ronnie asked DJ Alvarez about updating membership rosters on-line as is done with the FOP. According to Joe Ball, this is not possible at present.
  18. New Business: The following International Candidates were each given 2 minutes to address the attendees:
    - Vice President: Dominic Squillace. Distributed a letter of his qualifications to those present and noted information about his candidacy can be found on the international web site. He requested support from the MDC.
    - Treasurer: John Bull. Incumbent, running unopposed, made the shortest speech in the history of the Blue Knights.
    - Letters asking for support were read from the following candidates, listed alphabetically:
      - For President: Karen Borza and Guy O'Connor
      - For Vice President: none.
      - For Secretary: Jim Borza and Myron Joseph

- *The MDC Chairman noted he would not tell members how to vote but suggested that before voting, they remember the “Karen and Jim” show and BOG President Rory O’Connell’s failure to vote as directed by chapter presidents, both incidents occurring at the International meeting in Milwaukee. Ronnie urged all MSC members to vote.*

#### 19. MDC Meeting Announcements:

- Fall Conference, 2019: John Weinstein, VA II President, noted the Fall meeting (August 30-September 2) will coincide with VA II’s 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Blue Ridge Rally, with this year’s theme being “Knights Under the Big Top”. The event cost is \$95 and \$45 for adults and children 7-14 respectively. Please pre-order your T-shirts as soon as possible. Register at <https://mkt.com/BKVA-II>. Make checks payable to BKVA-II and mail them to BK VA-II, PO Box 2264, Merrifield, VA 22116. More information is on the BKVA-II website: [www.bkva-ii.org](http://www.bkva-ii.org).
- Winter Conference, 2020. Keith Johnson said VA XIII will host said over Presidents Day weekend (February 14-16). The meeting will be held at the Comfort Inn. Room rates are \$85. Registration is \$85, and those registering *before* December 15 will receive a T-shirt. A registration form will be forthcoming. (This info was presented during the “Good of the Order” segment.
- Spring Conference, 2020. Ed Martin’s (WV II) bid to host the 2020 Spring conference, though deliver after the announced deadline, was accepted unanimously in the absence of competing bids. It will be held May 22-24 in Elkins, WV at the Holiday Inn, located near the railroad station and the center of town. Registration will be \$85 pp and the hotel is \$125 per night (usually \$210).

#### 20. State Reps Reports (see chapter web sites for specific chapter events):

- Delaware (delivered by Mike Pollinger): DE I has 86 members. The chapter’s Special Olympics event resulted in a \$61,000 donation to that organization. DE I’s Toy Ride (#36) will be held November 11.
- Kentucky: (Reuben Gardner). KY has lost several chapters over the last few ears. KY II will host a ride for children on June 23 and KY XI will do a memorial cops’ ride in Lexington on June 15.
- Maryland (Steve Smith): Steve said he’s working with MD V to renew “Pigs on the Beach”, perhaps this Fall but certainly next year. Fred Davis, President of MD I noted the chapter’s annual Crab Feast event would be held August 2-4, with the actual feast occurring on August 3. Check the MD I website for details.
- North Carolina (Bruce Smith, via letter): looking into setting up a VA/NC escort for the Law Enforcement Unity tour.
- Tennessee: no report.
- Virginia (delivered by Mike Butler, VA III): VA III is working on a BK license plate for Virginia car and motorcycle operators. A minimum of 450 commitments are needed. Check the VA III website for additional details.
- West Virginia (Marshall Parker): Wild and Wonderful will be held in conjunction with the MDC 2020 Spring Conference in Elkins, noted above. Each of four WV chapters donated \$1500 in support of a Gold Star Mothers plaque in the state capital. This donation will be acknowledged at the site.

#### 21. Good of the Order

- Mike Pollinger described an interaction between several BKs wearing vests and the Pagan OMG at a HD dealership. The interaction, about whether BKs had to pay \$500 to Pagans to wear our colors in “their” territory, could have turned bad but didn’t due to the intervention of an older Pagan who acknowledged the Pagans don’t want any trouble with the BKs and that there is no requirement for us to pay to wear our colors in Pagan “territories” along the East Coast. Nevertheless, Mike advised members to exercise diligence, not to wear BK colors when riding alone, and to be prepared to protect ourselves as needed.
- Tri-State’s regional fall conference will be held in Batavia, NY on October 11-14. It will be hosted by NY IV.
- Ronnie Young announced that VA V will hold a Summer Bash in July, 2020 for those who are unable to attend the International meeting in Ireland in June 2020. The Summer Bash, to be held July 15-19 (Wednesday – Sunday) at the Delta by Marriott, will have no meetings or politics. It will be held on a non-interference basis with the International meeting to occur the following month. Info forthcoming.

22. Chaplain Mike Williams offered a closing prayer.

23. The meeting was adjourned at 1044 hours, followed by a rush to the door.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Weinstein  
Secretary