

Blue Knights  
Mason-Dixon Conference  
Winter Conference Meeting  
Virginia Beach, VA  
February 17, 2019

Minutes

1. Chairman Ronnie Young called the meeting to order at 0937 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:
    - Maryland State Rep: Steve Smith (MD I)
    - North Carolina State Rep: Bruce Smith (NC IV)
    - Virginia State Rep: Mike Hart (VA III)
    - State Reps not in attendance:
      - Kentucky: Ruben Gardner (KY II)
      - Tennessee: James Malone (TN I)
      - West Virginia: Marshal Parker (WV II)
    - Chaplain: Mike Williams (MD I)
    - Safety Officer: Robert “Bud” Overby (NC VIII)
    - Sergeant-at-Arms: Tomm Hayden (VA V)
    - Webmaster: Bob Rhodes (NC XVI)
5. The following MDC chapters were represented (13 of 71 chapters; 18%):
  - DE I
  - KY III
  - MD: I
  - NC: IV, VIII, XIII
  - TN: none
  - VA: I, II, III, V, XIII, XVII
  - WV: II
6. Chairman Young recognized attending VIPs, who complimented VA V for hosting a great meeting:
  - DJ Alvarez, International President
  - Karen Borza, International Vice President
  - Jim Borza, International Secretary
  - John Bull, International Treasurer

- Rory McConnell, Board of Governors Chairman; SRC Chairman
  - Jim Trachta, Board of Governors Vice Chairman
  - Guy O'Connor, Southwest Conference International Rep
  - Myron Joseph, Secretary, Tri-State Conference
  - Dominic Squillace, Vice Chairman, Tri-State Conference
7. Host Chapter Remarks. Mike Lewis, President of VA V thanked the attendees for coming to Virginia Beach and noted it was his chapter's pleasure to host the event.
  8. Chairman's Report: Ronnie Young announced there are currently no major issues within the MDC. He noted there would be some efforts to increase communications between the Board and some of the State Reps. He also said that there is \$1800 in an MDC disaster relief account. However, since repeated efforts to identify those in need of support had negative results and in light of the lack of written procedures to operate the account, the Executive Board was going to slow things down and create structure and regulations for the fund before the next disaster.
  9. Vice Chairman Report: Keith Chase announced there are 71 chapters in the MDC with 2299 members as of December 31, 2018. The MDC is the third largest conference, behind Tri-State and the Southern Regional Conference.
  10. Secretary Report: John Weinstein announced the minutes from the Fall 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 by MD I and VA V respectively. The motion carried without dissent.
  11. Treasurer Report: Keith Johnson noted 55 of 71 chapters have renewed to date. A letter noting the need to renew will be sent out soon. He provided the following account info:
    - As of October: \$10315.67
    - Deposits since October: \$5953
    - Expenditures since October: \$2173.53
    - Interest: \$0.41
    - Total: \$14095.55 (minus set-aside Disaster Relief Fund of \$1800)
    - Working Balance: \$ 12295.55

The Treasurer's Report from the last meeting was read by the Treasurer who asked for the Report to be approved. VA V and WV II moved and seconded the motion which passed without dissent. Finally, he noted that chapters need to do 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.

12. International Representative Report: Mike Pollinger addressed the following:
  - Thanked VA V for a great meeting.
  - Recommended members check out the "Members Only" section of the International Website to stay informed of club matters
  - Provided update on the final disposition of the Bessie Small case: She pled "no contest" to felony theft of more than \$10000 and was given a 6-year sentence, with a minimum of one to be served behind bars. She reported to jail on February 10. She was ordered to pay \$127,000 restitution. The club also was able to recover an additional \$41,000 in a heretofore unclaimed CD. [In subsequent comments, International President DJ Alvarez elaborated on two additional

lawsuits against Small: a pending civil suit and one for an illegal land transfer to Small's property to her husband. The latter was settled for approximately \$60,000, which will not constitute part of the aforementioned \$127,000 restitution. Chairman Young commented that failure to pay restitution or comply with any part of her plea deal will invalidate same and result in her serving more time in jail.

- A bill is being submitted in Maine that will, if passed as expected, allow election voting to be done electronically in the 2021 international election. The bill is expected to go into effect 60 days after the close of the current legislative session, which ends on June 1. Electronic voting will save the club a great deal of money [approximately \$10,000 according to International President DJ Alvarez.].
  - International Treasurer John Bull sent out financials. The club finished \$90,000 in the black.
  - There were no questions from the floor.
  - During DJ's comments, Chairman Young asked if a member from each chapter (the President and/or Secretary) could have access to member roles at International to make timely changes to status, address, etc. DJ committed to asking Joe Ball and said he'd send a recommendation to this effect.
13. Web Site Report: Bob Rhodes 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.
  14. Scholarship Report: John Weinstein distributed and reviewed two documents: the rules and regulations for the MDC Scholarship (2 awards of up to \$500 each or 1, if deserving, up to \$1,000) and the actual application, which must be submitted nlt April 19. Judges for the award competition are John Weinstein, Chairman, Keith Chase, VA II, and Tom Hayden, VA V. if other MDC members wish to participate, they should contact the Scholarship Committee chairman at [jweinstein@nvcc.edu](mailto:jweinstein@nvcc.edu). The rules and regulations, as well as the application form, are posted on the MDC website.
  15. Safety Officer Report: Bud Overby thanked VA V for a great event, if not the weather, and said he'd be sending emails to chapter presidents about safety and to establish a link with chapter safety officers. He is planning to put safety information on Facebook. He is planning to do a safety seminar at the Spring Conference and will help any chapter safety officers who seek his assistance. Bud's email address is [Robert.Overby@yahoo.com](mailto:Robert.Overby@yahoo.com).
  16. Quartermaster Report: Keith Chase noted, *later in the meeting*, he has 291 coins, 42 MDC pins and 7 patches. There was discussion of the high price of cling-on patches. Bob Rhodes made a recommendation which will be investigated. Keith noted MDC items can be ordered in person, by contacting him through the MDC website, or via the VA II website.
  17. Chaplain Report: None.
  18. Old Business
    - The Conference Chairman has a new telephone number for the TN I state rep and hopes to improve contact with him.
    - An i-Pad has been purchased and delivered to the Conference Secretary, who is still figuring out where the carbon paper attaches.
  19. New Business: The following International Candidates were each given 2 minutes to address the attendees:

- Presidential Candidates: Karen Borza (current International VP) and Guy O'Connor (current Southwest Conference International Rep)
  - Vice President: Rory McConnell (current Board of Governors Chairman); Dom Squillace (current Vice Chairman of Tri-State), Andreas Hohendorf (aka "Schlagi", current chairman of the European Conference), and Lisa O'Brien (via letter, currently West Coast Conference International Rep)
  - Secretary: Jim Borza (current International Secretary/incumbent) and Myron Joseph (currently Tri-State Secretary)
  - Treasurer: John Bull. Incumbent, running unopposed.
20. MDC Meeting Announcements:
- Spring Conference Update: Fred Allen, MD I, described the upcoming meeting, to be held over the Memorial Day weekend. Events will include an escorted ride into DC and a tour of a rum distillery. Registration information is out and members planning to attend were asked to make their reservations to secure a place in the host hotel.
  - Fall Conference Update: John Weinstein noted the Fall meeting (August 30-September 2) will coincide with VA II's 43rd 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's bid for VA XIII to host said conference was approved. The meeting will occur over Presidents Day weekend (February 14-16) and 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.
21. State Reps Reports (see web sites of specific chapter events):
- Delaware (Bert Littleton, via letter): Ride to the Tide 13 will be conducted April 14. It will be limited to 1000 bikes. DE I's Toy Ride (#36) will be held November 11.
  - Kentucky: no report.
  - Maryland (Steve Smith): Steve thanked VA V. He reminded chapters to notify Bangor of chapter election results. He also said the BKs need to support the Law Ride (held annually on Mother's Day). [In a separate comment, John Weinstein said VA II would lead a ride from Northern Virginia to the memorial if there is sufficient interest. Those interested in joining VA II for the Law Ride should contact John Weinstein or Keith Chase.] The MD I Crab Feast will be held on August 2-4. Finally, he is hoping "Pigs on the Beach" might return as a future event.
  - North Carolina (Bruce Smith): two issues in the state are being addressed.
  - Tennessee: no report.
  - Virginia (Mike Hart):
    - Mike congratulated VA V for its hard work in putting on a great meeting.
    - He noted VA XVI has not renewed. XVII has renewed but chapter XVIII has ceased operations.

- Mike requested Virginia chapters send him information on the dates, time and location of their meetings so he can attempt to attend.
    - Mike is continuing to pursue BK state license plates.
  - West Virginia (Marshall Parker): No report
- 22. Good of the Order
  - Myron Joseph, candidate for International Secretary, and Ken Strickland made generous \$5 contributions to COPS Run after their cell phones rang in the meeting. Another \$5 contribution was made by President DJ Alvarez (whose phone rang at the Fall MDC Conference meeting).
  - Rory McConnell noted there is \$221,152.16 in the Special Fund, with 41 chapters already contributing this year.
  - FOR SALE: 2014 Cognac Can-Am Spyder, less than 3000 miles, garage kept, CB, battery tender, extras. \$17,000. Call Pam Poisson, ME III, 207-578-3476.
  - International Conference will be held in Rye Brook, NY. Please register early. \$150 is early registration fee (breakfast extra); \$185 is late fee. Events include tours of West Point and Freedom Tower. See website for additional information.
  - 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 August 2020. This event, to be held Wednesday – Sunday 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.
  - Rory McConnell announced the BoG Cruise from Miami from September 29 – October 5, with stops in Puerto Rico and the Islands. Contact Rory or see BoG website for more info.
- 23. The meeting was adjourned at 1107 hours, followed by a rush to the door.

Respectfully submitted,  
 John Weinstein  
 Secretary