

Blue Knights  
Mason-Dixon Conference  
Winter Conference Meeting  
Danville, VA  
February 16, 2020

Minutes

1. Chairman Ronnie Young called the meeting to order at 0930 hours.
2. Attendees observed a moment of silence by MDC Chaplain Mike Williams followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
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:
    - 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)
      - Kentucky State Rep: Ruben Gardner (KY II)
      - 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)
    - Quartermaster: Keith Chase (VA-II)
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 (14 of 68 chapters; 20.5%):
  - DE: I
  - KY: nobody present
  - MD: I
  - NC: II, IV, V, VIII, XIII
  - TN: VI
  - VA: II, III, V, XIII, XVII,
  - WV: I, II

Chairman Young recognized attending VIPs:

- International President: Guy O’Connor, who made the following remarks:

- At year's end, there are 17,100 BKs in 624 chapters.
  - The lawsuit with Bessie Small should be over within the month. He advised it unwise to answer questions while the suit is on-going.
  - He invited questions from the floor but none were asked.
  - International Office Manager: Janna Clark
6. Host Chapter Remarks. Keith Johnson, President of VA XIII thanked the attendees for attending and said he hoped everyone had a good time. Keith also thanked the chapter members (including honorary chapter member Tommy Hayden) for their hard work.
  7. Chairman's Report: Ronnie Young announced all is peaceful in the MDC. There were no questions from the floor.
  8. Vice Chairman Report: Keith Chase reminded all chapters to use the bk.org email address. The upcoming BOG elections will be conducted electronically so chapters need to use the official email address. If members are having problems, they should contact him or Webmaster Bob Rhodes (704-534-3642) for assistance. Finally, Chase reminded members to keep their mailboxes cleaned out since they will fill with spam if neglected. No questions were asked from the floor.
  9. 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 (Ed Martin, WV-II) and seconded (Mike Butler, VA-III). 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 September 1, 2019 – February 16, 2020: \$1000.27.
    - Interest: \$0.59.
    - Available Funds as of February 16, 2020: \$12,659.42 (not counting \$1800 in Hurricane Relief Fund).

The Treasurer announced chapter dues invoices were sent via USPS to mailing addresses provided by Janna Clark. Snail mail worked well, with dues from 54 of 68 chapters being paid to date. He noted 2019 taxes had been filed and accepted by the IRS. He also reminded chapters to file their 990 Form ASAP. Chairman Young noted failure to do so will definitely result in interaction with the IRS.

11. International Representative Report: Mike Pollinger addressed the following:
  - Thanked VA-XIII for a great weekend.
  - All is going well in International.
  - Club finances: John Bull, the International Secretary, is doing a great job. The Club has been in the black the last four years and enjoyed a \$94,000 surplus in 2019 (\$60,000 of this figure was realized from damages paid resulting from the case against Bessie Small.) Greater attention is being paid to the Club's finances: the Finance Committee, of which Pollinger is a member, conducts active oversight and an accountant checks the books regularly.
  - Elections for the Board of Governors will be held this year. As noted above, the elections will be conducted electronically and only chapter presidents can vote.

The cost of the election is \$3225 (much less than the cost of paper-ballot elections (ed.).

- Any issues members would like Mike to raise on the next Conference Call must be submitted to him nlt February 20.
  - Joe Akers (MD-I) asked about the Building Fund, as he had received conflicted news about making donations. He was advised by Chairman Young to send the check to Janna Clark who would ensure it was deposited to the correct account.
12. Web Site Report: Webmaster Bob Rhodes reported MDC website is down 61%; 18% since Culpeper.
- Bob has made it easier to post ride and event flyers directly on the site to make notifications easier and more timely.
  - Facebook page. Facebook is an open page so anyone can read its contents. Only Blue Knights can be members. If a non-member should have access, a note of explanation should be sent to Bob; otherwise, he will deny access.
  - He reiterated his offer of 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 distributed the rules and application for the 2020 competition at the Winter Conference meeting. These documents are also posted on the MDC website. Completed applications must be postmarked nlt April 20.
- This year's question: *This is an election year. What do you consider to be the greatest threat(s) to American democracy and how would you confront it (them), consistent with our Nation's laws and values?*
  - In response to a question from Virginia State Rep Mike Hart, Weinstein noted the application is not only open to children of Blue Knights or college students. Additional question may be directed to Weinstein at [jweinstein@nvcc.edu](mailto:jweinstein@nvcc.edu).
14. Safety Officer Report: Bud Overby thanked Secretary Weinstein for conducting "Stop the Bleed" training for 25 attendees on February 15<sup>th</sup>. (Slides are available upon request via my email.) Weinstein will also provide this training at the Spring and Fall Conference meetings; also at VA-V's summer get-together in Virginia Beach. Bud conducted a safety roundtable on February 15<sup>th</sup> with 23 attending. Bud is planning to conduct classroom and/or road training at the Spring and Fall Conference meetings. His email address is [Robert.Overby@yahoo.com](mailto:Robert.Overby@yahoo.com).
15. Quartermaster Report: Keith Chase reported he has MDC coins, pins and patches. MD-I State Rep Steve Smith asked about the status of window decals. Fifty (50) each of inside and outside decals will be ordered. Cost will be about \$3.95 each. The decals should be available by the Spring Conference meeting; at the Fall meeting at the latest.
16. Chaplain Report: Chaplain Mike Williams mentioned numerous individuals who have suffered an accident, illness or other traumatic challenge. He asked for a moment of silence for these individuals. Chaplain Williams also provided updates on Rev. Ernie Davis (NC-XVI) who is making great progress following a catastrophic accident, and John Christianson who will soon be undergoing brain surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Mike received a round of well-deserved applause for his dedicated, heartfelt and energetic ministry to all Blue Knights, their families and their friends.
17. Old Business

- Ed Martin, President of WV-II, distributed flyers (also available on MDC website) for the Spring 2020 MDC meeting, to be held over Memorial Day weekend (May 22-24) in Elkins, WV:
  - Registration fee is \$85 until April 1, at which time it increases to \$95.
  - The host hotel rate is \$125/night, not \$25 as erroneously printed on the registration form. The host hotel is currently filled but he's hoping an addition 14-15 rooms may be renovated so people should call for updates. The Windgate Hotel, located ¼ mile from the host hotel has rooms at \$105/night. The rate at the Holiday Inn, 2 miles away, is \$150/night.
  - In addition to events listed on the flyer, the following will be available:
    - Stop the Bleed Training
    - HR-218 qualifications for retired WV and VA officers. If firearms instructors from other states attend, qualifications can be extended to retirees from these states as well. The HR-218 qualification course of fire for WV and VA retirees will consist of 50 rounds. Firearms instructors from other states should contact John Weinstein for additional information. Weinstein also noted plans to conduct HR-218 qualifications at Culpeper. There will be no charge for qualifications in WV or VA.
- President Bob Robertson (VA-II) gave an update on the Fall Conference meeting, to be held at the Best Western, over the Labor Day weekend (September 4-7) in Culpeper, VA. This will be the chapter's 44<sup>th</sup> consecutive Blue Ridge Rally, the longest in the Blue Knights.
  - Hotel rate is \$90/night.
  - Theme: Rock and Roll All Knights.
  - In addition to free HR-218 quals, there will be escorted and non-escorted rides, and all the other perks that make this event so popular.
  - Information on the VA-2 website: [www.bkva-ii.org](http://www.bkva-ii.org). One can also register for the event and purchase the highly desirable T-shirts at the web store.

#### 18. New Business:

- There were no bids for the 2021 Winter Conference. Chapters were asked to consider hosting the event and let members of the Executive Board know within the next 30 days.
- 2020 is an election year for MDC officers. If you are interested in running for an office, you must send your intention in writing (email is ok) to Vice Chair Keith Chase nlt April 15.
- 2020 is also an election year for the BOG. Guy O'Connor provided the following list of candidates (listed alphabetically, ed.):
  - President: Karen Borza, Rory McConnell, Ted Littleton, Dom Squillace (letter read by Mike Pollinger)
  - Vice President: Ed Gable
  - Secretary: Myron Joseph, Glenn Wheat (letter read by Keith Chase)
  - Treasurer: Mike Rickard
- There was no new business from the floor.

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

- Delaware (delivered by Mike Pollinger):
  - DE I renewed 86 members.

- 36<sup>th</sup> Toy Run was held November 11. Over \$17,000 was raised.
- The 14<sup>th</sup> 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. Shirt will cost \$15 and may be purchased on-line.
- Kentucky: no report
- Maryland (Steve Smith):
  - All quiet in Maryland.
  - New MD-I President Byron Hope discussed the annual Crab Feast to be held July 18-August 2 at the Knights of Columbus. Addition information will be forthcoming on the MD-I website.
  - 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): All is good in NC.
- Tennessee: no report.
- Virginia (Mike Hart):
  - 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, 60 applications have been received. However, VA-III is working with State legislator McGuire who may be able to lower the requirement to only 50 applications since the BKs is a non-profit/charitable organization. Stand by; this issue is not dead. 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.
  - VA III's toy run on November 2, to support the Salvation Army, hosted 168 bikes and was a big success. Next year will be even bigger. Details on website.
  - Dan Mitchell (VA V) and Ralph Bartley (VA-XVII) are planning a meet and greet in the Colonial Heights area. More information will be forthcoming.
- West Virginia (Marshall Parker):
  - Despite initial problems which threatened the chapter to fold, WV-V renewed with 23 members and all officer positions filled. BZ, Marshall!)
  - Wild and Wonderful will be held in conjunction with the MDC 2020 Spring Conference in Elkins, noted above.

## 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.
- [Note: this information was not discussed at the Winter meeting. It is repeated from the Fall 2019 meeting for the convenience of those planning to attend International in Ireland. Ed.] 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.

21. Chaplain Mike Williams offered a closing prayer.

22. WV-II and VA-V made motions to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1046 hours, followed by a grateful rush to the door.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Weinstein  
Secretary