

**Mason-Dixon Conference
2022 Winter Conference Meeting
February 13, 2022**

Call to Order: 0930 hours by Chairman Ronnie Young

Moment of Silence - Prayer by Chaplain Mike Williams

Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Chairman Ronnie Young.

Blue Knights Pledge – Read by Chairman Ronnie Young

As a Blue Knight, I pledge to act with honor and pride, to promote motorcycling and motorcycle safety by being an example of the safe use, operation, and enjoyment of motorcycles. I will always work to improve the relationship between the motorcycling law enforcement community and the public, and the fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights.

Roll Call – Officers, Representatives, Appointed and Chapters present (*Secretary Weinstein*)

- Conference Officers

Chairman, Ronnie Young	Yes		Treasurer, Keith Johnson	Yes
Vice Chairman, Keith Chase	Yes		International Rep, Mike Pollinger	Yes
Secretary, John Weinstein	Yes			

- Appointed State Rep's

Delaware, Eric Wagner	Yes		Tennessee, Brian Gregg	No
Kentucky, Ruben Gardner	No		Virginia, Ralph Bartley	Yes
Maryland, Steve Smith	Yes		West Virginia, Marshall Parker	Yes
North Carolina, Bud Overby	Yes			

- Appointed Positions

Chaplain, Mike Williams	Yes		Webmaster, Bob Rhodes	Yes
Sgt. @ Arms, Bruce Smith	Yes		Safety Officer, Bud Overby	Yes
Quartermaster, Keith Chase	Yes			

Recognition of Guest(s)

Current International Officers: Rory McConnell, VP (North America); John Bull, Treasurer; Bud Overby, International Safety Officer; Jana Clark, Office Manager

Past International Presidents: Ronnie Young

BOG: None

Other Conference and Chapter Officers: Myron Joseph, Tri-State Vice-Chairman

Chapters Present: 14 chapters were present (* denotes President/authorized rep): DE-1, MD-1, MD-2, NC-4, NC-8, NC-16, VA-1, VA-2, VA-3*, VA-5, VA-13, VA-17*, WV-1, WV-2.

Non-MDC Chapters Present: NY-9.

Note: due to impending snow, attendees were asked to be brief (a herculean task!) so the meeting could be concluded expeditiously.)

Chairman (Ronnie Young)

- Ronnie thanked DE-1 for an excellent rally and noted Saturday night's wedding was the first in many years.
- Chapters were reminded to file the (990 EZ) form with the IRS. The form is not so easy; chapters needing assistance may contact the MDC board or International Treasurer John Bull.
- This is an MDC election year. All positions are open. Those wishing to run must send a notification of intent to the MDC Secretary, John Weinstein, at jweinstein@nvcc.edu, nlt April 15.
- Ronnie cautioned the attendees to silence their cell phones lest they pay a \$5 "donation." One generous member (Chaplain Mike Williams) paid a donation, rendering unto Caesar that which is Caesar's.

Vice Chairman (Keith Chase)

- Currently, 8 MDC chapters still need to renew. Steps are being taken to contact the presidents of these chapters and Keith is hopeful this number can be brought down to 1-2. Bob Rhodes has requested a list with current contact information of all MDC presidents to facilitate this effort.
 - Jana Clark commented that a total of 75 chapters throughout the organization have not renewed. Several comments were made as to why: young people are too self-absorbed, the Blue Knights are perceived as a bunch of old men (and women), etc. Jana noted this decline is evident in all clubs and organizations.
 - To survive, the BK LEMC must work harder to recruit younger members.
- Based on "current" renewals received, the MDC has 55 chapters with 1592 members.

Secretary (John Weinstein)

- Minutes from the Fall 2021 meeting were distributed to all chapter Presidents and posted on the MDC website. There was no discussion or changes proposed.
 - Motion to accept: Eric Mines, MD-1
 - Second motion: Mike Butler, VA-3
- The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer (Keith Johnson) [Quarterly report is attached]:

- IRS form 990 has been filed for the MDC.
- Account Balance Total Funds: \$14,367.54 (includes \$1800 for Hurricane Relief Fund)
- Motion to accept report: Ed Martin, WV-2
 - Second motion: Mike Butler, VA-3
- Motion to accept was approved unanimously.

International Rep (Mike Pollinger)

- The 2023 International Conference will be held in Harrisburg, PA. Info forthcoming.
- This is a BOG election year. The voting will be done electronically. Any interested in running for office should submit their names now.
- The 2024 International Conference will be held in Bangor, ME to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Blue Knights. Additional info will be forthcoming. Construction at the International Headquarters has effected many repairs.
- Agenda items are due to Mike February 14 nlt 1600.
- *Reminder: to log in, your user name is your membership number and your password is your last name (ALL IN CAPS). [This was not discussed in the meeting but is provided for your convenience.]*

Web Site (Bob Rhodes)

- Please send ride and event flyers to Bob for posting on the MDC web site.
- The MDC storefront is on the MDC web site. Presidents can pay chapter dues there.
- Bob’s number is 704-534-3642; call if you need assistance. The MDC website is www.BKMDC.org .

Safety Officer (Bud Overby)

- 27 members attended Bud’s February 12 safety roundtable. He asked attendees to inform their chapters of issues discussed and the importance of safety in general. Safety should be a priority at every meeting.

Quartermaster (Keith C.)

- Sales can be made via the new MDC Storefront at: <https://bkmdc.square.site/> and the link is posted on the web site. Chapters may also pay their MDC dues at this storefront.
- Inventory

Item	Stock Level	Price
MDC Logo Inside Window Cling	97	\$2.00
MDC Logo Outside Vinyl Stickers	97	\$2.00
MDC Coins	272	\$10.00
MDC Logo Patches	163	\$5.00
MDC Logo Pins (no plan to reorder)	38	\$5.00

Chaplain (Mike Williams)

- Mike invites all to send him the names of BKs, friends and relatives who may need an encouraging word. He will reach out discreetly. People need not be affiliated with the MDC or BK International or even law enforcement.
- For the sake of time, Mike did not identify all individuals in need of prayer and assistance but asked members to keep all Blue Knights in their prayers. He mentioned the passing of Shirley “Mother” Holmes and relayed the thanks of her son to the outpouring of BK wishes. Mike also mentioned the passing of Denise Brass, wife of Wayne Brass, NJ-11. Both have been long-time supporters of and attendees at MDC events. Finally, Mike

mentioned Steve “Snowman” Smith and Ronnie Young who had dealt with difficult circumstances.

- As always, contact Mike for names/addresses of those in need if you want to send a card.

Scholarship: (John Weinstein)

- John reviewed the rules and read the question for the 2022 scholarship. The rules and application form are attached. They will also be posted on the MDC website. Applications are due nlt April 20, 2022. Prior winners cannot receive another award.

Old Business: None.

New Business

- Ronnie reiterated that notifications of intent to run for MDC office (all positions are open) must be sent to the MDC Secretary nlt April 15, 2022.

State Rep Reports

- Delaware (Eric Wagner):
 - The 38th annual Toy Run was held November 14. 255 participants raised more than \$6200 in cash plus toys for the Salvation Army.
 - The 2022 Ride to the Tide will be held April 10. It starts in the northern part of the state and will end at Rehoboth Beach. Over 1000 bikes are anticipated. Info to follow.
- Kentucky:
 - Ruben Gardiner did not attend but relayed via Ronnie Young that he will contact the one KY chapter that has not renewed.
- Maryland (Steve Smith):
 - Snowman thanked all BKs who sent condolences to him upon the loss of both his parents within a 90-day period.
 - He will attend the next meeting of MD-8 to check on its status.
- North Carolina (Bud Overby):
 - Three NC chapters are uncertain due to membership issues. Some smaller chapters may experience trouble due to membership pressures.
 - Meetings for eastern and western NC state presidents has been re-energized. A meeting of western presidents has been conducted and went well. Eastern presidents will be meeting in Rocky Mount. All BKs are invited.
 - The NC Facebook page has also been re-energized.
- Tennessee: No report.
- Virginia (Ralph Bartley):
 - Ralph Bartley has visited the following VA chapters: 3, 4, 6, 19 and 20 and will be visiting more. Ralph is always available to assist chapter presidents.

- On December 27, VA-10 voted to dissolve the chapter. Some members are expected to join other chapters. (There was a brief discussion about the need to work at recruiting younger members. Ronnie Young offered his personal opinion that International needs to prioritize recruiting new members and de-emphasize efforts to find ways to remove people from the club.)
- Ralph contacted VA-7 and the chapter renewed on February 1.
- West Virginia (Marshall Parker)
 - Marshall has been dealing with some health and computer problems but he's back! His new email address: mparkerjr1949@outlook.com
 - WV-1 should be ok new (i.e., renewed). (Discussion from the floor: the renewal extension expires on February 14.)

Good of the Order

- Rory McConnell:
 - Thanked the MDC for another great event and complimented DE-1.
 - Some of the ideas he's picked up at MDC (e.g., unifying state meetings) have been brought back to international and are being implemented.
 - The SRC Spring meeting will be in Sarasota after Easter. We are invited.
 - The BOG agenda will be coming out.
- John Bull: the 2022 budget is done. It and the end of year report are on the website.
- Mike Pollinger: approximately \$6050 was raised for the two NYC officers killed in the line of duty. A check will be sent next week to the local PBA.
- Bob Shipe identified himself as one of the MDC founders (along with Ruben Gardiner) and thanked Ronnie, Young, Mike Hart and Ruben for keeping the organization alive.
- Jana Clark noted membership cards are coming out and vests are on order and should be arriving late February or in March.
- Bob Robertson, President of VA-2, noted Fall conference would be held in Culpeper, VA September 2-5. Information is on the chapter website: www.bkva-ii.org.
- No bids have been received for the 2023 Winter Conference. Chapters wishing to place a bid must do so to me nlt March 15. A final decision will be made in Elkins.

Closing Prayer (Mike Williams)

Adjournment: 1022

- Ronnie Young moved to adjourn; Motion accepted by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Weinstein
MDC Secretary Extraordinaire