

Blue Knights
Mason-Dixon Conference
Winter Conference
February 18, 2018

Meeting Minutes

1. Chairman Ronnie Young called the meeting to order at 0933 hours. A moment of silence was followed by a prayer by MDC Chaplain Mike Williams. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Chairman Young read the Blue Knights Pledge.
2. The Roll Call was read and all Conference Officers, International Rep, State Representatives and Appointed Positions were present, with the following exceptions:

- MDC Secretary and Quartermaster Keith Chase: excused.
- Kentucky State Rep Ruben Gardner: absent.
- Tennessee State Rep: position vacant.
- Safety Officer: position vacant.

The following MDC chapters were represented:

- DE I
- KY: none
- MD: I
- NC: II, IV, XVI
- TN: none
- VA: I, II, III, V, XIII, XVII
- WV: I, II

3. Chairman Young recognized attending VIPs, who commented as follows:
 - John Bull, International Treasurer, noted the following:
 - The end of year BK financial report is posted on the International website or can be obtained directly from the Treasurer. The club was in the black (profit) by ~\$26,300.
 - Bessie Small was granted another continuance until April. She cost the club about \$30,000 last year. Actual figures are found on page 3 of the treasurer's report under "other expenses". She is now paying \$250 month to retain the public defender. Additional information was provided in the International Rep's report, in paragraph 9 below.
 - International meeting minutes are on the web site.
 - Board of Governors Officers
 - Vice President Cal Ennals: BOG has set up a Facebook page. State Reps are asked to have chapters in their respective states identify one (and only one) person who will have access from among the current President, Past President, or Vice President.
 - Secretary Gus Faella
 - Other Conference Officers
 - Tri-State Chairman Guy Cook
 - Tri-State Treasurer Dominic Squillace who thanked DE-I for a great event.

4. Host Chapter Remarks. Mike Pollinger thanked the members of DE-I for their hard work and noted there were 98 registered attendees at the Conference. He acknowledged the hard work of the manager and asked members who enjoyed their stay to make a positive note on the hotel's web site.
5. Chairman's Report: Ronnie Young announced Bill Rhodes, NC-XVI, is taking over as the MDC website manager. The Chairman is looking for someone to assume responsibilities as the conference safety officer. Finally, regarding the BOG Facebook page, discussed in paragraph 3 above, he announced Rick Smith, MD-II, will be the MDC moderator.
6. Vice Chairman Report: JJ Lightner announced there are 72 chapters in the MDC (a new chapter in Virginia), but the conference has fallen to only fourth largest. The recruiter award deadline is in May.
7. Secretary Report: due to Keith Chase's excused absence, minutes from the last conference meeting were unavailable to be voted on. Steve Smith and Fred Allen, both of MD-I, moved to defer the reading of the minutes until the next meeting. This motion passed.
8. Treasurer Report: Keith Johnson announced the September balance (\$9587.74) has increased to \$11,407.89 currently. Steve Smith and Tommy Hayden, of MD-1 and VA-V respectively) moved to accept the report and the motion passed.
9. International Representative Report: Mike Pollinger addressed the following:
 - He provided additional information on the case against Bessie Small, based on a February 3 conference call. Maine property in Small's hands was seized, and will eventually be returned to the Club. Additionally, the Club will bring civil charges against her.
 - Chapter Presidents must verify that prospective members meet the eligibility requirements. Several "members" had to be removed from the Club because they never met said requirements.
 - Under proposal 2018-001, Ireland-I was requesting to be granted a date exemption to hold the 2020 International meeting in Killarney on June 21-26. Other chapters can bid for the 2020 International on the usual July dates, but no other bids have been tendered to date. The deadline to submit a bid for 2020 is May 1.
 - BK rules allow a chapter hosting an international meeting to make up to \$6,000. NV-II broke this rule, keeping an additional \$15,000 for the chapter and paying out \$2,500 (without receiving any receipts) to each of 5 California chapters for their assistance. These monies could have been used to lower costs for BKs who attended the rally, and Ronnie Young noted the Club is not in the business of making money from our members. Further, Mike noted these funds belong to the Club and need to be returned. One CA chapter has returned its \$2,500 and efforts are underway to be reimbursed by NV-II and the other 4 CA chapters, which have appealed the demand for repayment. A February 23 deadline has been set for repayment. Failure to meet this deadline could result in chapter charter revocations.
 - John Bull is an advisor to a new committee that is developing policies and procedures for hosting an International Conference. This committee includes individuals whose chapters have hosted past conferences.

- The next conference call is April 23.
10. Web Site Report: none
 11. Safety Officer Report: none.
 12. Quartermaster Report: In light of Keith Chase's excused absence, John Weinstein announced he had MDC conference patches, pins and coins for sale.
 13. Chaplain Report: Chaplain Mike Williams discussed his recovery from recent surgeries (he will be able to ride his bike) and thanked all for the many cards and communications of support. If any member knows of someone, in or outside the conference, who is in need of his services, he or she should send the individual's name, address, zip code, email address, etc. so Mike can send a card on behalf of the MDC.
 14. Old Business
 - Spring Conference Update: Keith Johnson, VA-XIII, described the upcoming meeting, to be held over the Memorial Day weekend. Registration information is out and members planning to attend were asked to make their reservations early because the host hotel is undergoing renovations and up to 40 of its rooms may not be available (78 rooms will be available but some may be occupied by non-BK guests). Dinners will be served both Friday and Saturday.
 - MDC Scholarship: Ronnie Young announced that applications are available for the 2 scholarships, each worth \$500. The deadline for submission is April 20. Ronnie announced that John Weinstein, VA-II, will be taking over responsibilities as chairman of the scholarship committee. This year's applications will be sent to Ronnie, who will forward them to Weinstein for evaluation with his committee, whose members have yet to be named.
 - Booker's Best: Members interested in obtaining a bottle but unable to locate one in local package stores, should contact Ronnie Young.
 15. New Business
 - MDC Elections: This is an election year. All elective MDC positions are up for reelections. Nominations can be made at the Spring Conference meeting in Danville, and will be followed by elections at the Fall Conference meeting in Culpeper.
 - Bids for the 2019 Winter Conference: Since no bids have been made to date, chapters are asked to determine whether they'd like to host said meeting and notify the MDC board (Ronnie Young: 757-651-3300; Keith Chase: kchase008@gmail.com) NLT March 19. Information needed, at a minimum, includes proposed location and hotel, room rate, registration fees, and what registration includes (i.e., events, meals, hospitality). Those Presidents who attended the Winter Conference meeting will then vote on bid submission(s). Ronnie Young said he would ask VA-V if it was interested in hosting the meeting. He also advised chapters whose bids for a meeting were not accepted should not be angry or lose interest in hosting a future meeting.
 16. State Reps Reports (see web sites of specific chapters hosting events):
 - Delaware (Bert Littleton): Ride to the Tide 12 (starting in Smyrna and ending at Rehoboth, where hotel rooms are available) will be conducted April 22 (rain date is April 29). To date, over \$1million has been raised and over 1000 bikes are expected. On-line registration is available. Additional information will be sent to State Reps Presently for distribution to respective state chapters.

- Kentucky: no report.
- Maryland (Steve Smith): Steve discussed whether the “Slingshot” trike is a car or a motorcycle is a state by state decision. He also noted MD-V is reopening and the date of the MD-I Crab Feast (August 4). Steve closed, thanking DE-I for a great meeting.
- North Carolina (Bruce Smith):
 - NC-VIII will host an Officer Down ride in April (did not catch the date; see the NC-VIII website).
 - Robert White, an NC-VIII member, currently serving as a motor officer, has suffered a leg amputation as a result of cancer. He wants to convert his motorcycle to a trike, but the \$16,000 cost is prohibitive. NC-VIII is accepting donation of members who would like to help out. Send donations to BK NC-8, c/o Aaron Lemon, 357 Laurie Ellis Road, Winterville, NC 28590.
 - NC-XVI will host a ride originating from Indian Motorcycle in Charlotte on May 5.
- Tennessee: no report.
- Virginia (John Weinstein): (for information on any of the VA-II events noted below, contact Weinstein at jweinstein@nvcc.edu or at 571-422-9928).
 - Weinstein congratulated DE-I for its hard work in putting on a great meeting.
 - VA-II will host an escorted ride (Washington Metro Police Motor Squad) to RFK, in Washington DC, to link up with the Law Ride to the Fallen Officers wall at Judiciary Square on May 13. The ride will originate at the Northern Virginia Community College (8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA) B-7 parking lot. Assembly begins at 0800 and the ride departs at 0900. Please RSVP to Weinstein if you plan to attend this ride.
 - VA-II will host the 42nd Blue Ridge Rally (MDC Fall Conference) in Culpeper, VA over Labor Day weekend, August 31-September 3. This year’s theme is “Sports Knights”. Weinstein assured attendees that unlike DE-I, he could assure Culpeper attendees there would be no snow.
 - VA-III will host its annual Teddy Bear Run on the first Saturday in November. Toys are available. Contact President Tommy Edwards.
 - VA-XIII’s year-long long-gun raffle is underway and Weinstein reminded attendees that VA-XIII was hosting the Spring Conference meeting over Memorial Day weekend in Danville.
 - Weinstein announced a “Ride to Remember” on May 12, 2018, from 1100-1500, with registration starting at 0830. All funds raised will be donated to the NLEOMF. Details can be obtained at bristolchamber.com or from Dan Berndt, djberndt25@gmail.com or a 423-366-5938.
- West Virginia (Marshall Parker): There are 169 BKs in WV. WV-I is hosting a memorial ride on June 3 and its Wild/Wonderful weekend on June 8 in Elkins. WV-III has 54 members and is working in Huntington in support of a child care center. Finally, WV-V’s Bike Night has been discontinued.

17. Good of the Order

- Ronnie Young thanked Mike Williams for his ministry and all he does for the BKs, to the applause of all.
 - Deadline for submission of chapter dues was extended, without additional charges, until the end of February.
 - John Bull announced three international honorary members had been chosen: the NYPD Commissioner, Joe Ball, and US Vice President Mike Pence.
 - International has converted to a new database since the old one, Fox Pro is no longer supportable. There have been some errors in members' listings, and these problems (were over 20,000 errors; now about 1,000) are almost resolved. If a member's information is incorrect, chapters are asked to make corrections on the roster *and* note the correction in a cover letter to Jana in the International office. Also, call her.
 - A new office worker, Julie, has been hired at International.
 - Tri-State Chairman Cook announced the Tri-State Conference meeting, hosted by PA-V, was October 5-8. Details are on the Tri-State website.
 - Ronnie Young introduced and welcomed: Liz Cook, from BK COPSRUN
18. The meeting was adjourned at 1046 hours, following motions from Steve Smith and Bruce Smith. Mike Williams gave a closing prayer.