

Mason-Dixon Conference - Winter 2023

Meeting Agenda

February 12, 2023 09:30 am

Call to order: Keith Chase (MDC Chairman).

Executive Board Roll-Call		
<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Present at Meeting</i>
Chairman	Keith Chase (VA-II)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vice Chairman	Fred Allen (MD-I)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	John Weinstein (VA-II)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	Keith Johnson (VA-XIII)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
International Rep	Mike Pollinger (DE-I)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

State Representatives and Other Appointed Positions Roll-Call		
<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Present at Meeting</i>
Delaware State Rep	Eric Wagner (DE-I)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky State Rep	Ruben Gardner (KY-II)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland State Rep	Steve Smith (MD-I)	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina State Rep	Robert (Bud) Overby (NC-VII)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee State Rep	Brian Gregg (TN-IX)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia State Rep	Ralph Bartley (VA-XVII)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia State Rep	Marshal Parker (WV-I)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chaplin	Mike Williams (MD-I)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Safety Officer	Robert (Bud) Overby (NC-VIII)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bruce Smith (NC-IV)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Webmaster	Bob Rhodes (NC-XVI)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Agenda Items
<p>1. <u>Call to Order</u>: 0932</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Moment of Silence. b. Opening Prayer – Mike Williams (MDC Chaplain). c. Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance. <p>Reading of Blue Knights Pledge – Keith Chase. <i>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.</i></p>

2. Chapter Roll-Call and Report: John Weinstein (MDC Secretary Extraordinaire):
- There are 60 Chapters in the conference and 14 Chapters (23%) were represented at the meeting. There are 133 members, spouses and guests in attendance at the meeting.
 - Chapters present: DE-1, KY-3, MD-1, MD-2, NC-4, NC-8, NC-16, VA-1, VA-2, VA-3, VA-5, VA-13, VA-17, WV-2.

3. Recognized VIPs:

<u>INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS</u>	<u>OTHER CONFERENCE EXECUTIVES</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Bull, Treasurer • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myron Joseph, Tri-State Chair • Cal Ennals, Tri-State Vice Chair
<u>PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS</u>	<u>OTHER CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronnie Young 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<u>BOG OFFICERS</u>	<u>OTHER STATE REPRESENTATIVES</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russ Davis, NJ

4. Host Chapter Remarks: President Mike Pollinger (DE-1), noted:
- Mike thanked the 133 attendees at the Winter Conference.
 - \$2000 was raised for Courtney of the hotel staff to address her needs. Mike thanked the attendees for their generosity.
 - The hotel staff was very complimentary about the Blue Knights.
 - Mike encouraged other chapters to step up and host MDC conferences. He promised assistance from members with experience hosting conferences.
5. Chairman’s Remarks: None.
6. Vice Chairman’s Report: (Freddy Allen)
- Membership – MDC has 60 chapters with 1802 members. No starter kits are out.
 - MDC is well ahead of all conferences in renewals, except for the European Conference. Freddy is working on renewing a reinstated MD chapter.
 - The Presidents are encouraged to check the Members Only section of the International website for recruiting information and instructions on submitting recruiting ideas.
7. Secretary’s Report (John Weinstein): The meeting minutes from the Fall-2023 Conference were completed and sent out to the State Reps, to be forwarded on to the Chapter Presidents and were posted on the website. Motion to accept the minutes by Ed Martin, WV-2, and seconded by Byron Hope, MD-1 and accepted unanimously without discussion. Contact info: jweinstein@nvcc.edu; 571-422-9928.
After 1 May, new email address: jweinstein0602@gmail.com.
8. Treasurer’s Report (Keith Johnson): The MDC winter financial Report was received for filing.
9. International Representative’s Report (Mike Pollinger):
- a. International is going paperless and matters pertaining to dues and rosters will be conducted via this medium. He reminded all chapters to conduct business on-line and to keep their mailboxes purged so as not to overflow. He invited any chapters having problems with their email accounts to call a member of the MDC Board. Webmaster Bob Rhodes provided his number: 704-534-3642 and said members could call him for help.

- b. Keep Rory McConnell in your prayers in the aftermath of his medical emergency. He is unable to travel to the conference meeting at this time.
- c. Mike discussed the need to improve communications between the BOD and the conferences and members. There was discussion about allowing members to monitor the zoom calls and the placing of the call on the cloud for subsequent viewing by members. Chairman Chase promised to provide a link, which was provided by separate email after the meeting.
- d. Robert Freeman, formerly of MD-1, has been declared *persona non grata*.
- e. Mike discussed the proposal to limit terms and noted President Alvarez had changed his earlier opposition of the proposal to support. As a result, Alvarez is running for a fourth term.
- f. International Candidates (note: MDC will not offer formal support of any candidate):
 - President: DJ Alvarez, TX-31; Rory McConnell, FL-18, Ed Littleton, Austria-1 (Note: Littleton withdrew his candidacy).
 - Vice President: (North America) - Cal Ennals, NJ-5; Jim Trachta, FL-30; Europe – Dhynes Didier (Bel-8); Holk Optiz (Ger-42)
 - Secretary: Karen Borza, FL-30; Glenn Wheat, IN-16
 - Treasure: John Bull, MD-1 (unopposed)
- g. Although the formal report is long overdue and still not released, VA-5 was absolved of any wrongdoing regarding its 2020 Summer Bash.
- h. Mike Pollinger: mdc.rep@blueknights.org or 302-545-5301

NOTE FROM REP: *Please remember this report is a synopsis of board activity. **Read the full minutes** which are currently on the International website and currently emailed to each Chapter President. The minutes contain successfully and unsuccessful proposals.*

Representatives Reports

(Send Event Flyers to MDC.Webmaster@BKMDC.org for posting on the website)

This will be a summary of topics presented by each reporting member... Check the MDC website for events

1. Delaware State Representative – Wagner (DE-I):
 - a. Delaware has 1 Chapter with 84 members.
 - b. The 39th Toy Run had 153 bikes and netted over \$3000 for the Salvation Army.
 - c. The 40th anniversary Toy Run will be held November 12.
 - d. The 68-mile escorted Ride to the Tide will be held April 16.
2. Kentucky State Representative – Ruben Gardner (KY-II) [report read by Keith Chase]: Keith noted Ruben is doing a great job with great communications. KY's 13 chapters are active and doing lots of things.
3. Maryland State Representative – Steve Smith (MD-I): No report.
 - a. Maryland has 5 Chapters with 170 members.
4. North Carolina State Representative – Bud Overby (NC-VII):
 - a. North Carolina has 19 Chapters.
 - b. Most chapters have renewed.
 - c. Eastern and Western chapters are holding group meetings. Bud will attend.
 - d. An NC state conference will be hosted by NC-2 in Raleigh in June. Bud will send invitations.
5. Tennessee State Representative – Brian Gregg (TN-IX): No report.
 - a. Tennessee has 9 chapter; eight (8) have renewed.

- b. Keith Chase noted increasing TN integration into and participation in the MDC and getting an active state rep are priorities.
- 6. Virginia State Representative – Ralph Bartley (VA-XVII):
 - a. Virginia has 13 Chapters. Ralph has visited all VA chapters and enjoys good communications.
 - b. VA-4 voted to fold; one member transferred to VA-17.
 - c. Ralph attended a picnic on October 29. VA-1, 2 and 5 were in attendance.
- 7. West Virginia State Representative – Marshal Parker (WV-I):
 - a. West Virginia has 3 Chapters with 125 members.
 - b. The MDC Spring Conference will be held in Elkins over the Memorial Day weekend (May 27-29).
 - c. Marshal discussed a very complimentary article about WV-3 that appeared in the Huntington Review magazine. The article will be linked on the MDC website and information will be sent by Bob Rhodes to The Shield.

Website

- 1. Bob Rhodes – Webmaster:
 - a. The MDC website update has been completed. Please send corrections and comments to Bob.
 - b. On the Chapter contacts page, we are now using the official email address for each Chapter.
 - c. Send flyers webmaster@bkmdc.org
 - d. There is an MDC Facebook page that is up and running.
 - e. Corporate Email System: As everyone should be aware by now, the International is switching to an in-house email system. If your chapter has not switched or set-up your account; now is the time. You need to occasionally purge the files, as there is a limited amount of space. Bob offered his help at the meeting. He urged all members to review the accuracy of their contact information pending upcoming elections. On the international website (your user name is your member number and your password is you LAST NAME in ALL CAPS), go to the members only section and click on member contact update.

Quartermaster

- 1. MDC Sales Items: MDC Conference coins, pins and patches are up on the MDC website or can be ordered directly through the Conference Quartermaster (Keith Chase). We take cash, checks or credit cards or we can invoice directly, using square payment.

Safety

- 1. Robert “Bud” Overby – Safety Officer:
 - a. Email Address: Robert.Overby@yahoo.com
 - b. 24 members attended his safety meeting, which received great reviews. He reminded members to keep safety at the forefront and everyone is a safety officer.
 - c. Requested Chapters send him ride announcements; he wants to solicit safety ideas from Chapter Safety Officers.
 - d. Requested Chapters to ascertain if there is a desire to setup safety training at future meetings.

Chaplain

- 2. Mike Williams – Chaplain:
 - a. Email Address: mikewmd1@gmail.com
 - b. Mike asked members to reach out and communicate to other members; many need help and support. Please keep those below in your prayers.

- c. Mike also asked for members to let him know of any individuals who might need his services and assured all the information would be held in confidence.
- d. Members who have passed away:
 - NC-21 Chaplain Rev. Kendrick; Bobby Ray Crawford, KY-3; Harold “Donnie” Viar, VA-2 charter member; Richard “Spike” Johnson, VA-5; Jason Crooks, NC-11.
- e. Members whose relatives have passed:
 - Brother of Phillip Higgins, MD-1; Mother of Earl Killmon, VA-5; Mother of Ralph Bartley, VA-17; Father of Scott Snoddy, VA-20; Niece of Grady Covington, MD-1; Wife of William Johnson, VA-20; Wife of Tom Sidel, VA-13; Sister of MD-1 Chaplain Rev. Dr. Bernard Taylor; Wife of Milton McKinney, VA-5; and Father of Mike Hart (VA-3)’s friend Jane Hewell.
- f. Members who are ill/recovering:
 - Bill Haney, past president of VA-17; MD-1 chaplain/pastor Bernard Taylor; MDC Vice Chairman Fred Allen; DE-1 chaplain Sheryl Allston; VA-20 Donald Leahong; Past MDC Chairman Ronnie Young; and (out of conference) Rory McConnell and Guy O’Connor.
- g. Members’ relatives who are ill/recovering:
 - Laura Rhodes, wife of MDC webmaster Bob Rhodes; Mary Nelson, wife of MD-1 J.T. Nelson; and Tammy McNulty, wife of Marty McNulty, WV-2.

Old Business

1. Chapter Leadership Changes: Please ensure you email the MDC Secretary, Chairman and Vice Chairman along with the International of any Chapter changes (E-Board officers, website, and contact info).
2. 2023 Spring Conference Update: Ed Martin provided an update on WV-II hosting over Memorial Day Weekend 26-28 May 2023. The flyer info is posted on the MDC website. Events will include train rides and a walking poker tour of Elkins.
3. Fall 2023 Conference Update: Bob Robertson, President of VA-2, provided an update on VA-II hosting the MDC Fall Conference over Labor Day Weekend (September 1-4) at the Best Western in Culpeper. This event will be the 47th anniversary of VA-2’s Blue Ridge Rally, the longest continuing running event in the Blue Knights. The flyer info is posted on the MDC website.
4. Payment of Fees for State Reps: A motion, proposed by Ronnie Young (VA-5) and seconded by Bob Roberson (VA-2) to postpone a decision until the next MDC meeting to fund attendance of one out-of-state MDC conference meeting for MDC State Reps and other Conference Officers, was supported. Selection criteria need to be formalized.

New Business

1. Bids for 2024 MDC Winter Conference Meeting: None to date. DE-1 is considering. MDC chapters will be asked again to step up and sponsor the event. They will have 30 days to respond. Submissions will be voted on by chapter presidents in attendance at the Winter Conference meeting.
2. 50th Anniversary (July 2024):
 - MDC is considering a jointly sponsored event with Tri-State in support of the 50th Blue Knights international rally, which will be held at Maine’s Sugarloaf Mountain resort. Costs and options are being considered, with a submission deadline of March 15 to the Anniversary Committee.
 - The MDC will vote at a future meeting on a proposal to sponsor four members, chosen by lottery, to receive a \$500 (each) stipend to attend the international in Maine. This initiative

will be funded by postponing the MDC scholarship competition for 2024 and 2025. Selection criteria for attendance at the international celebration will be developed.

Good of the Order

1. MDC 2023 Scholarship: (*John Weinstein – Committee Chairman*). Secretary Weinstein reported there were no scholarship applications last year. Scholarship rules/application are posted at MDC’s website.
 - Scholarship question: “You have just been appointed as the chief advisor to the President of the United States. He has asked you to identify 3 initiatives that will improve the economy, improve the quality of education, and heal the nation’s divisions. He also wants you to provide supporting justifications for your recommendations as well as potential pitfalls.”
2. International Election Candidates
 - Candidates listed under MDC International Rep Report.
 - Candidate statements were provided by D.J. Alvarez (read by Keith Chase), Jim Trachta (read by Chase), and Glenn Wheat (read by Chase) and Cal Ennals (read by Ronnie Young)
3. Election ballots will go out May 1-10 and will be sent electronically. International will not send ballots to government email addresses (e.g., .gov;.state; .edu). You must have a personal/private email on file to receive your ballot. See discussion above.
4. Ralph Bartley, VA State Rep/VA-17, generously provided \$5 to the conference for the untimely ringing of his cell phone.
5. VA-5 will sponsor a Summer Bash in August. Check out the VA-5 and MDC websites.

Announcement of Mason-Dixon Conference Meetings

1. Spring Conference Meeting - 2023
 - Hosted By: West Virginia - II
 - Location: Elkins, WV
 - Dates: 26-28 May 2023
 - Information: See the MDC website for the Flyer
2. Fall Conference Meeting - 2023
 - Hosted By: Virginia-II
 - Location: Culpeper, VA
 - Dates: 1-4 September 2023
 - Information: www.bkva-ii.org and on MDC Website
3. Winter Conference Meeting - 2024
 - Hosted By: tbd
 - Location: tbd
 - Dates: tbd
 - Information: tbd

Announcement of International Conventions

1. 2023 Convention:
 - Hosted By: PA-4
 - Location: Camp Hill (near Hershey), PA
 - Dates: July 16-21, 2023
 - Info: See International and MDC websites

Closing

1. Closing Prayer: Chaplain Mike Williams
2. Adjournment: 1145. Next meeting 09:30 am on 28 May 2023 at the 2023 Spring Conference

MDC Contact Info	Website: www.bkmdc.org	<i>Secretary’s Contact</i> Email: secretary@bkmdc.org Phone: 571-422-9928
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