

**Mason-Dixon Conference
2021 Fall Conference Meeting
September 5, 2021**

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 | No | | Tennessee, Brian Gregg | No |
| Kentucky, Ruben Gardner | Yes | | Virginia, Ralph Bartley | Yes |
| Maryland, Steve Smith | Yes | | West Virginia, Marshall Parker | No |
| North Carolina, Bruce Smith | Yes | | | |

• Appointed Positions

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|--|----------------------------|-----|
| Chaplain, Mike Williams | Yes | | Webmaster, Bob Rhodes | Yes |
| Sgt. @ Arms, Tom Hayden | Yes | | Safety Officer, Bud Overby | Yes |
| Quartermaster, Keith Chase | Yes | | | |

Recognition of Guest(s)

Current International Officers: DJ Alvarez, President; Rory McConnell, VP (North America); John Bull, Treasurer; Bud Overby, Safety Officer; Jana Clark, Office Manager
Past International Presidents: Ronnie Young, Frank Gennari
BOG: Mike Rickert
Other Conference and Chapter Officers: Jim Trachta, SRC; Russell Davis, Tri-State; Lon Strayer (President, PA-12)

Chapters Present: (* denotes President/authorized rep): DE-1, KY-2, MD-1, MD-2, NC-4, NC-8*, NC-16, NC-17 TN-6, VA-1, VA-2, VA-3, VA-5, VA-13, VA-17, WV-2, WV-3*.

Non-MDC Chapters Present: FL-8, FL-9, MA-2, NJ-5, NY-1, NY-10, NY-16, OH-10, PA-7, PA-12, QUE-1.

Chairman (Ronnie Young)

- Ronnie thanked VA-2 for an excellent rally. (International President DJ Alvarez and many others did the same during the course of their comments.)
- Congratulations to Bud Overby on his appointment as International Safety Officer. He will also replace Bruce Smith as the NC State Rep. Bruce Smith will replace Tommy Hayden, who is stepping down, as the Sergeant-at-Arms. Ronnie thanked Bruce and Tommy for their past service and thanked Bud and Bruce for the new positions they are filling.
- Ronnie addressed the Alan West issue concerning his statement about police officers upon the occasion of his wife's DUI arrest. His wife's charges were dropped, the investigation of West's comments are on-going, and West is not a member of any MDC chapter so the MDC will not address the issue.
- Ronnie cautioned the attendees to silence their cell phones lest they pay a \$5 "donation." One generous member (Jim Trachta) paid a donation.
- Ronnie acknowledged distinguished visitors (see Recognition of Guests above).

Vice Chairman (Keith Chase)

- Keith prostrated himself and sought absolution for failing to note DJ Alvarez's presence at the preceding night's dinner.
- It is good to see people coming back to BK events.
- The BK LEMC must work harder at recruiting younger members if the club is to survive.

Secretary (John Weinstein)

- Minutes from the Spring 2021 meeting were distributed to all chapter Presidents and posted on the MDC website. There was no discussion or changes proposed.
Motion to accept: WV-2
Second motion: VA-1
- The minutes were accepted unanimously.

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

- As of August 30, 2021, 55 of the 67 MDC chapters have paid their 2021 Chapter dues. Keith will reach out to the State Reps for the outstanding chapters.
- Account Balance Total Funds: \$14,925.29 (includes \$1800 for Hurricane Relief Fund)
- Funds Available: \$11,907.75 (not counting hurricane fund)
- Starting in October, invoices will be mailed to the chapter address (used for 2021 chapter renewals) on file with the International office. The invoice will include outstanding fees. Please submit them promptly.

- Motion to accept report: VA-5
Second motion: VA-1
- Motion to accept was approved unanimously.

International Rep (Mike Pollinger)

- The BOG is still looking for a chapter to host the 2023 International Conference.
- 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.
- The new international officers were announced. In addition to Alvarez as President, Rory McConnell was elected VP of North America, Brendan Condon was elected VP of Europe, Jim Borza was elected Secretary, and John Bull was elected Treasurer in a hotly contested election.
- Ballot counts were discussed. 15,539 ballots were mailed out but only 5,589 were returned, about 36%. 34% and 42% were returned from North America and Europe respectively. Many ballots did not reach members because they had government email accounts and/or had not updated their personal addresses. Members were urged to bring their profiles up to date by going into the members- only section of the International website. Reminder: to log in, your user name is your membership number and your password is your last name (ALL IN CAPS).

Web Site (Bob Rhodes)

- Please send ride and event flyers to Bob for posting on the MDC web site.
- Membership on the MDC Facebook is increasing by 5-10 each month. One must be a member of the Blue Knights to post. Non-members can follow but not join the Facebook page (which give the right to post). Bob has been denying non-BK requests to join. The membership approves of this action.
- The MDC storefront is on the front page of the web site. Presidents can pay chapter dues there.
- Bob will change the name of the VA State Rep from Mike Hart to Ralph Bartley.

Safety Officer (Bud Overby)

- Bud complimented VA-2 for an excellent job.
- Bud reviewed an accident involving a BK who was struck when a car turned left in front of him. Remind your chapter members to be aware and prepared to respond to a driver's error.
- Please inform Bud and Chaplain Mike Williams of any accidents or mishaps.
- Before a ride, provide a safety brief and during the ride, *everyone* is a safety officer.
- Bud complimented the Stop the Bleed training that has been occurring at MDC meetings. Everyone should get this training. DJ Alvarez noted it's increasingly occurring throughout BK conferences.
- As we move into colder weather, check your bike(s) tire for air pressure, tire and hose dry rot, fluid levels, etc.

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 | 87 | \$2.00 |
| MDC Logo Outside Vinyl Stickers | 97 | \$2.00 |
| MDC Coins | 273 | \$10.00 |
| MDC Logo Patches | 192 | \$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.
- Mike read the names of more than 10 BKs, their relatives, and friends who are in need of prayers. Let Mike know if he can help ease someone's pain. Contact Mike for names and addresses of those in need if you would like to send a card.
- Ernie Davis, NC-16, after many surgeries after his accident, is getting back on two wheels. This is truly a miracle.

Scholarship: (John Weinstein)

- Recipients Alyssa Morrison (affiliation is MD-4), and Christopher Ganoe,(affiliation is VA-17) have received their awards.
- John will present the question and paperwork for the 2022 scholarship at the Winter Conference meeting in February.

Old Business

- Remember to file 990EZ or required tax report with IRS.
- MDC 2022 Winter Conference. Mike Pollinger reported the event will be at the Atlantic Sands Hotel/Conference Center (4 ½ stars), in Rehoboth Beach, DE on February 11-13.
 - Hotel rate: \$79 (plus taxes, etc.) per night. This rate, which is less than half the normal rate is being given out of appreciation of the service provided by LEOs.
 - Registration: \$95, includes 2 continental breakfasts, 2 days of hospitality suite, and a three-entrée buffet banquet dinner.

Good of the Order

- Mike Pollinger recounted a mechanical problem a DE-1 member had in Texas. Mike called DJ Alvarez who contacted a local member who towed the member's bike, opened his house, and helped the rider. This kind of fellowship is what the Blue Knights is about and is a powerful recruiting too.

- Ronnie Young noted we have to do a better job of recruiting. The MDC board will work harder with the State Reps. Secretary John Weinstein will be passing through TN in October and try to stop at a few chapters.
- DJ Alvarez
 - Thanked VA-2.
 - Members must renew before September 30 to prevent a break in service.
 - Reach out to members via phone for a more personal interaction than by text or email. This will help retention.
 - A host is still being sought for the 2023 international conference.
- Rory McConnell
 - Rory thanked his opponents for VP for conducting a gentlemanly race.
 - He is working on recruitment and retention ideas which can be submitted via a link on the International website. Please forward your ideas to him via the link.
 - Conferences can get up to \$500 (soon to increase to \$1000) to distribute to chapters in support of recruitment initiatives.
 - Don't forget the Riders Assistance Program, found under "programs" in the members-only section of the International website.
- John Bull
 - A budget committee has been formed and is working on tightening financial guidelines.
 - The budget will contain funds for advertising in appropriate print and on-line magazines.
 - This year's budget will have a surplus of around \$50,000.
 - Anyone wanting a copy of the actual budget may receive on by contacting John.
- Jana Clark
 - Renewals go out in mid-October.
 - Check corporate email address.
 - Ensure all records are accurate (name, address, chapter, etc.)

State Rep Reports

- Delaware (Eric Wagner, replacing Bert Littleton):
 - Delaware has 89 members.
 - The 38th annual Toy Run will be held November 14. Registration is from 1000-1200. The cost is \$15 for a rider/\$10 for a passenger, plus a new, unwrapped toy.
 - The 2022 MDC meeting will be February 11-13 at Rehoboth. Information is on the chapter and MDC websites.
- Virginia:
 - Ralph Bartley has contacted the Presidents of 14 of Virginia's 15 chapters and has established good lines of communications. He is available to assist them.
 - Ralph attended a charity ride sponsored by VA-9. The ride was well attended and executed.
 - Ralph had a bike problem in Mineral, VA while on his way to the MDC. Several VA-9 members assisted him.
 - Ralph thanked VA-2 President Bob Roberts for an excellent ride on September 4.

- Upcoming events (see details on chapter and MDC websites):
 - 9-11 events: we should find one and participate.
 - VA-13 Toy Run: October 16.
 - VA-3 Toy Run: November 6.
- Kentucky (Ruben Gardner):
 - All 12 chapters have renewed
 - Anyone interested in purchasing gun raffle tickets from Ruben for a KY-2 fund raising effort should contact him.
 - KY-11 had an LE Memorial Foundation ride in August.
 - KY-7 has a COPS run and KY-8 has a ride on September 25. Check the chapters' websites for details.
- Maryland (Steve Smith):
 - Steve is talking with FOP Lodge 1 about the possibility of having a recruiting table at Police Week.
- North Carolina (Bruce Smith):
 - No chapters have been lost. People are recovering from COVID.
- Tennessee (Brian Gregg): No response to repeated efforts by Ronnie Young to contact him. No report.
- West Virginia (Marshall Parker): No report.

Closing Prayer (Mike Williams)

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: WV-2
- Second motion: VA-5
- Time: 1055

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Weinstein
Secretary Extraordinaire