

# 2021 Mason-Dixon Conference (MDC) Winter Conference

February 14, 2021

Minutes: VIRTUAL Meeting

Call to Order: 1004 hours

**Moment of Silence** - Prayer by Chaplain Mike Williams

**Pledge of Allegiance** - Omitted

**Blue Knights Pledge** – Read by Chairman 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	no
Vice Chairman, Keith Chase	yes		International Rep, Mike Pollinger	yes
Secretary, John Weinstein	yes			

- State Representatives

Delaware, Eric Wagner	yes		Tennessee, Brian Gregg	yes
Kentucky, Ruben Gardner	yes		Virginia, Mike Hart	no
Maryland, Steve Smith	no		West Virginia, Marshall Parker	no
North Carolina, Bruce Smith	yes			

- Appointed Positions

Chaplain, Mike Williams	yes		Webmaster, Bob Rhode	yes
Sgt. @ Arms, Tom Hayden	yes		Safety Officer, Bud Overby	yes
Quartermaster, Keith Chase	yes			

- Chapters present (15): DE-1, KY-2, MD-1, MD-2, NC-4, NC-5, NC-16, TN-3, TN-8, VA-1, VA-2, VA-3, VA-5, VA-17, WV-2

**Recognition of Guest(s)** **Current International Officers:** none

**Past International Presidents:** none

**BOG:** Dominic Squillace, Chairman (sent his greetings to all)

**Other Conference Officers:** none

### **Chairman (Ronnie Young)**

- COVID continues to have negative effects on conference meetings: WV-2 was forced to cancel Spring Conference meeting. Members were asked if there is a location, indoors or outdoors, where we might meet for a day.
- Follow up report on IRS question concerning donations to individuals from “Disaster Relief” fund: We are OK, but we must earmark where the funds are going and decisions must be approved by the entire membership.
- Chairman Young thanked Brian Gregg for stepping up to be the Tennessee state rep. He also announced Mike Hart’s resignation as the Virginia state rep and his replacement by Ralph Bartley (VA-17). Finally, he announced that Eric Wagner (DE-1) had assumed the role as Delaware state rep from Bert Littleton.
- NC-7 folded. Its members have been invited to join other chapters but he hopes the chapter will be reconstituted.
- International election year. **Make sure to change email IF you have a government address. They will NOT be sent to those email addresses. Your email address must be personal.**

### **Vice Chairman (Keith Chase)**

- Chapter update information
  - Total Chapters: 66 (per Mike Pollinger)
  - Starter Kits: 0
  - New Chapters: 0
  - Total Members: 2007 (per Mike Pollinger)

### **Secretary (John Weinstein)**

- Minutes from the Fall 2020 **virtual** meeting were posted on MSC website and distributed to state reps. The minutes were approved without discussion.
  - Motion to accept: NC-4
  - Second motion: VA-1

### **Treasurer (Keith Johnson):** Report delivered by Chairman Young. *Report attached.*

- Account Balance as of February 14, 2021: \$15,736.21
- Chapter renewals : 50/66
- Tax filing not discussed, however written report indicates the 990 form was filed.
  - Motion to accept report: DE-1
  - Second motion: MD-1

### **International Rep (Mike Pollinger)**

- International Convention 2021 in Ireland is canceled. Despite some objections due to the fact that Ireland-1 never had to bid for the international meeting, it was awarded the 2022 event. Those who made reservations through Celtic Horizons Tours with David Buckley should be good for 2022 (though confirming such is a good idea). Those who made reservations via other means should check to see whether 2021 reservations are cancelled.

- BOG is looking for a chapter to host the 2023 International Convention. There was some talk it could be a chapter in the Houston area. In any event, views were expressed that if Ireland does not hold the 2022 international, it should not be allowed to host the 2023 meeting.
- (Reflects some information amended by Dom Squillace) 2021 International will be held following the combined West/Midwest conference meeting in Prescott, AZ on July 7-10. The international meeting will be held on Sunday, July 11: BOG meeting in the morning and general membership meeting in the afternoon. International election results will be distributed and new officers will be sworn in after the afternoon meeting. There will be no banquet. Additional information can be found on the International, West and Midwest websites.
- DJ Alvarez, in his role as candidate for International President, has asked each conference if their officers would like to hold a Zoom call to ask him any questions. Inasmuch as he has already been President for three terms (6 years), the MDC members felt he is already well known, making the Zoom meeting superfluous.
- Ballots for the international election will go out May 26, with a return date nlt July 9 (per Dom Squillace). **Candidates for International election are:**
  - President: DJ Alvarez (TX-31); Doug Casteel (MO-3)
  - Vice President: Roger Byers (TX-31); Cal Ennals (NJ-5); Myron Joseph (NY-9); Rory McConnell (FL-18)
    - It was noted that if Byers is selected as International Rep from the Rio Grande Conference, Karen Borza, also of TX-31, would run for VP. If elected, this could result in 4 members of TX-31/Rio Grande Conference holding the top four international offices. There is nothing in the International by-laws that prevents husband/wife simultaneous board membership, and nothing limits the number of individuals from a chapter or conference who can serve at the same time. In response to questions from the floor, Chairman Young suggested Mike Pollinger raise the concern and have International look into by-law changes to address the issue of term limits and limits to the number of individuals from a single conference who can serve at the international level at one time.
  - Secretary: Jim Borza (TX-31); Bob Seelye (WA-1)
  - Treasurer: John Bull (MD-1) - unopposed

### **Web Site (Bob Rhodes)**

- There have been very few (~8-10/week) hits on the MDC website but Facebook hits are high. There was some discussion, prompted by a question from Brian Gregg, about whether we want to explore other platforms in light of the political baggage associated with Facebook but no consensus was reached.
- Bob stated his plans to revise the MDC website and include some new features, such as a secure way for people to post photos directly to the site. Chairman Young stated he would still like all submissions to be reviewed first by Bob.

- Bob stated he would help anyone set up a BK corporate account or change their email on file with International to a personal address so international ballots can be received. He can be reached through the website or via the following phone number: [704-534-3642](tel:704-534-3642).

**Safety Officer (Bud Overby)**

- Bud stated convincing evidence that riding one’s motorcycle is the best way to combat COVID-19.
- Bud reminded people of his recent distribution of hints for riding two-up.
- Byron Hope (MD-1) thanked Bud for all the info he sends out.

**Quartermaster (Keith C.)**

- Sales can be made via the Virginia-II store at [WWW.BKVA-II.ORG](http://WWW.BKVA-II.ORG); however, the storefront will be migrating to the MDC website since VA-2 has changed banks.
- Inventory:

Item	Stock Level	Price
MDC Logo Inside Window Cling	90	\$2.00
MDC Logo Outside Vinyl Stickers	90	\$2.00
MDC Coins	281	\$10.00
MDC Logo Patches	201	\$5.00
MDC Logo Pins (no plan to reorder)	39	\$5.00

**Chaplain (Mike Williams)**

- Mike sent congratulations to all celebrating February birthdays and anniversaries.
- COVID has complicated the grieving process, but Mike will send a card on behalf of the conference to anyone whose name is made known to him.
- Updates on sick and distressed:
  - 1) VA V, Wille Creekmore’s wife “JC” and Richard McDaniel’s wife “Linda” both passed-away in November. JC’s demise was a result of COVID.
  - 2) Paul Ludwig, VA III passed
  - 3) VA XVII, Ralph Bartley, death of family member (grandson) since last meeting
  - 4) Bert Littleton (DE-1) has been struggling but is doing better per Mike Pollinger.
  - 5) Ernie Davis (NC-16) is on the mend.
  - 6) John Christianson, DE-1, moved to PA to live with his daughter.
  - 7) Allen Evans (VA-5) suffered a motorcycle accident in TN, but is home and recovering well.
  - 8) Mike Pollinger noted Frank Dorso (DE-1) lost his mother.
  - 9) Ruben Gardner noted the loss of two sons of KY-2 members.
  - 10) Bob Rhodes gave an update on the International Chaplain, who was in the hospital on oxygen due to COVID>

11) Bob Robertson (VA-2) noted the passing of member Steve Piaskowki and thanked Mike Williams for his compassionate assistance.

**Scholarship: (John Weinstein)**

- Scholarship information was provided: applications must be postmarked nlt April 24, 2021 and prior winners are ineligible to apply again.
- Scholarship rules and applications are attached. They are also available on the MDC website.

**Old Business**

- Spring 2021 conference will NOT be hosted by WV II due to State COVID orders. All rooms have been cancelled although Ed Martin (WV-2) advised those who did not make their reservations through the block should confirm their cancellations. Chairman Young asked attendees to make efforts to locate another venue, wither indoors or outdoors. *IF there are no other options are identified by March 31, a “virtual” meeting will be held.*
- WV-2 will hold the Spring Conference meeting unless another chapter wants to host it and so indicates by the end of March. This motion, offered by VA-5 and seconded by KY-2 was approved.

**New Business**

- As discussed above, it is imperative for International to have a personal email (not a government address) to which to mail election ballots. Webmaster Bob Rhodes reiterated his offer to help and contact information.

**State Rep Reports**

- Delaware (Eric Wagner)
  - DE-1 has 89 members
  - The November Toy Run had 317 attendees and raised \$4836 for the Salvation Army.
  - The Ride to the Tide will be on April 18. There will be two departure times to address COVID concerns.
- Kentucky (Ruben Gardner)
  - Ruben has been in contact with 11 of Kentucky’s 12 chapters so far. All are expected to renew. KY-19 has had some renewal problems due to suspected email problems. Bob Rhodes offered to help.
- Maryland (Steve Smith): No report.
- North Carolina (Bruce Smith)
  - Apart from NC-7, discussed earlier, all is OK in NC.

- Mike Pollinger's failure to wish happy Valentine's Day to the conference's male attendees was duly noted.
- Tennessee (Brian Gregg)
  - TN-3 will hold a 20-year anniversary ride to commemorate 9-11. Info will be sent.
- Virginia (Mike Hart): Chairman Young thanked Mike for his time as state rep and introduced Ralph Bartley as new state rep. Chairman Young delivered the Virginia report.
  - VA-3 will no longer pursue its BK license plate initiative. All monies will be refunded.
  - All else is good in Virginia.
- West Virginia (Marshall Parker): No report.

### **Good of Order**

- Virginia V "Summer Bash" is still a go "*at this point*" and scheduled for July 28-31, 2021 in Chesapeake.
- Dom Squillace noted that any bids for the 2023 international must be submitted by May 1 to BOG Secretary Glenn Wheat. Contact Janna at HQs.
- Mike Pollinger described DE-1's bid for the 2022 Winter Conference, to be held February 11-13. Since no bid was received 45 days before yesterday's meeting, as required by the by-laws, the conference was able to vote on the bid. A motion for DE-1 to host the meeting, unless another chapter requests to do so by March 31, was made by VA-3 and seconded by WV-2. Mike will send addition information on room rates (currently ~\$139/night, though negotiations are continuing) and registration costs (~\$85-90) once all arrangements are made.
  - If the meeting is held at Dover Downs, as currently anticipated, Mike advised that firearms are not allowed to be carried into the casino (there or at any Delaware casino), even by currently sworn LEOs. Anyone going into the casino would be required to secure his or her weapon in a lock box, found in each hotel room, and that violation of this rule would likely lead to arrest. In subsequent discussions, a consensus was reached that members are responsible enough to comply with this law. Tony Hayden (VA-5) stated this rule is no different that BKs not being allowed to carry weapons in Ireland or at the Prescott international meeting since the latter is being held on an Indian reservation and firearms there may only be carried by tribal police.
- President Bob Robertson (VA-2) stated the Fall conference meeting would be held September 3-6 in Culpeper, VA. Info will be posted on the chapter's website.

- Next meeting will be on May 30, 2021. Whether it will be virtual or in-person in a location identified by March 31 is tbd.

**Closing Prayer (Mike Williams)**

**Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn: VA-5; seconded by TN-3.
- Time: 1142

*Respectfully submitted: John Weinstein, Secretary*