

Blue Knights
Mason-Dixon Conference
Spring Conference Meeting
Meeting held on-line via Zoom
May 24, 2020

Minutes

1. Chairman Ronnie Young called the on-line meeting to order at 0935 hours.
2. The moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Blue Knights Pledge were not conducted.
3. Roll Call:
 - Executive Board present:
 - Ronnie Young (VA V), Chairman
 - Keith Chase (VA II), Vice Chairman
 - John Weinstein (VA II), Secretary
 - Keith Johnson (VA XIII), Treasurer
 - Mike Pollinger (DE I), International Rep
 - State Reps and Other Appointed Positions:
 - Kentucky State Rep: Ruben Gardner (KY II)
 - North Carolina State Rep: Bruce Smith (NC IV)
 - Virginia State Rep: Mike Hart (VA III)
 - State Reps not in attendance:
 - Delaware State Rep: Bert Littleton (DE I)
 - Maryland State Rep: Steve Smith (MD I)
 - Tennessee State Rep: Brian Gregg (TN I)
 - Virginia State Rep: Mike Hart (VA III)
 - West Virginia State Rep: Marshal Parker (WV III)
 - Safety Officer: Robert “Bud” Overby (NC VIII)
 - Sergeant-at-Arms: Tommy Hayden (VA V)
 - Webmaster: Bob Rhodes (NC XVI)
 - Quartermaster: Keith Chase (VA-II)
 - Scholarship Chairman: John Weinstein (VA II)
 - Chaplain: Mike Williams (MD I) – not present
4. Secretary Weinstein conducted the conference roll call. . The following MDC chapters were represented (12 of 65 chapters; 18%):
 - DE: I
 - KY: II, III, XI, XII
 - MD: none
 - NC: IV, VIII
 - TN: none
 - VA: II, V, IX, XIII
 - WV: IIChairman Young noted no attending VIPs.:
5. Host Chapter Remarks. N/A

6. Chairman's Report: Ronnie Young announced that the Spring 2021 conference meeting will be held in Elkins, WV since this year's meeting had to be cancelled. Ed Martin (WV II) noted the prices will be the same as announced for 2020 (hotel is \$125/night plus tax and registration costs were reduced by \$5; pre-registration is \$80 and late is \$95) but more hotel rooms (70) had been secured.
7. Vice Chairman Report: Keith Chase said there are 65 chapters (with 1931 members) in the MDC, having lost three that failed to renew. Of the 65 chapters, 14 are at or below 14 members so their continued viability could be questionable. Part of the reason is our members are getting older. Keith is working on getting an old recruiting poster that can list the contact information for the state reps.
8. Secretary Report: John Weinstein announced the minutes from the Winter MDC meeting had been distributed to the Executive Board and State Reps, the latter for posting to chapter presidents in their respective AORs, and posted on the MDC website. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes, which was made (Mike Butler, VA-III; seconded by Dan Mitchell, VA V). The motion carried unanimously without discussion.
9. Treasurer Report: Keith Johnson reported the current MDC financial status. The account balance is \$14,459.42, which includes \$1,800 in the Hurricane Relief Fund. His quarterly report is attached in this email (see website for detailed info):
10. International Representative Report: Mike Pollinger addressed the following:
 - Is sending information pertinent to the June 13 BOD conference call to all state reps and requesting them to distribute this info to chapter presidents. Mike requested input nlt the morning of June 10 to help determine how he can best vote in support of the MDC's views. There was significant discussion about one of the issues, whether to provide \$2500 to a founding father to cover medical expenses. It was determined that since funds had already been raised to meet current needs, he has received other financial support in the past, and concerns about a potentially difficult precedent that cannot be extended to everyone, the attendees decided to postpone providing additional monies until such time that a new need exists, at which time the need will be considered.
 - On a related note, KY State Rep Ruben Gardiner asked a question whether direct financial aid to an individual member can be given without jeopardizing our tax exempt status. Ed Martin (WV II) said he was told to establish a trust fund with multiple trustees to protect against any allegations of impropriety. Chairman Young said he would contact the IRS on Tuesday (May 26) for a clarification.
11. Web Site Report: Webmaster Bob Rhodes reported:
 - Facebook has over 500 members.
 - MDC website. Usage is down: about 30 hits a month.
 - A Zoom link will be placed on the website.
 - *With elections approaching and the need to vote electronically, Bob reiterated his offer of assistance if any chapter is having problems with the website or other electronic media. His phone is 704-534-3542.*
12. Safety Report: Bud Overby reminded people to check bikes during the current down-time to make sure the bikes are road-worthy and to keep talking about safety to keep it on people's minds. Bud is planning to conduct classroom and/or road training at the Fall Conference meeting. Weinstein will also provide Stop the Bleed training at the Fall Fall

meeting as well at VA-V's summer get-together in Virginia Beach. Bud's email address is Robert.Overby@yahoo.com.

13. Quartermaster Report: Keith Chase has 100 vinyl stickers each that adhere to inside and outside of windshield. These cost \$2 each. He also has in stock: 281 coins, 201 logo patches, and 39 pins (the pins will not be reordered). These items can be ordered in the Virginia II store at www.bkva-ii.org.
14. Scholarship Report: John Weinstein announced the recipients of two \$500 scholarships to Alexander Toback (NC II) and Tristen Richardson (VA V). A third applicant was deemed ineligible since he won a scholarship last year and the rules clearly state the award may only be received one time. The question answered by the applicants: *This is an election year. What do you consider to be the greatest threat(s) to American democracy and how would you confront it (them), consistent with our Nation's laws and values?*
15. Chaplain Report: Chaplain Mike Williams is undergoing some medical challenges and was not present. Chairman Young asked members to remember Mike and Mamie in our prayers. Chairman Young, Mike Pollinger and Earl Killmon provided updates on Rev. Ernie Davis (NC-XVI) who is making great progress following a catastrophic accident; John Christianson and Bert Littleton (DE I); Barbara Evans (VA V), who is recovering from surgery; President Guy O'Connor; International honorary member Alan West and regular member Arlington Bay, both of whom suffered injuries in motorcycle accident; and members Bernie Lindsey (ME I) and John Fichtner (GE VII) who passed away.
16. Old Business
 - Candidates for the upcoming BOG elections were identified:
 - Chairman: Rory MacConnell, Ted Littleton, Karen Borza and Dominic Squillace.
 - Vice Chair: Ed Gable, Brad Tollefson, and Brendan Condon
 - Secretary: Glen Wheat and Myron Joseph
 - Treasurer: Mike Rickard
 - Keith Chase gave an update on the MDC Fall Conference meeting, to be held at the Best Western, over the Labor Day weekend (September 4-7) in Culpeper, VA. At this time, the event is expected to occur. Watch the VA II website for future status updates. This will be the chapter's 44th consecutive Blue Ridge Rally, the longest in the Blue Knights.
 - Hotel rate is \$90/night.
 - Theme: Rock and Roll All Knights.
 - In addition to free Stop the Bleed training and HR-218 quals, there will be escorted and non-escorted rides, and all the other perks at this popular event.
 - Information on the VA-2 website: www.bkva-ii.org. One can also register for the event and purchase the highly desirable T-shirts at the web store.
 - Mike Butler (VA III) noted the VA IX Vietnam Memorial Wall event has been postponed; new date tba.
17. New Business:
 - The 2020 International meeting will not be held in Ireland this summer as planned due to its cancellation because of COVID-19 concerns. Instead, it will be held there in 2021. This year, there has been discussion about holding a two-day event, in Fargo, ND or Chattanooga, TN, over a Sunday-Monday, in mid-August. There is a possibility that a hotel in Louisville might be considered. Keith Chase expressed

concern that the timing of this two-day event could interfere with the MDC Fall Conference hosted by VA II. Mike Pollinger said he would represent this concern to the conference planners. There were no bids for the 2021 Winter Conference. Chapters were asked to consider hosting the event and let members of the Executive Board know within the next 30 days.

- There was no new business from the floor.
18. State Reps Reports (see chapter web sites for specific chapter events):
- Delaware (delivered by Mike Pollinger):
 - DE I has 89 members.
 - 37th Toy Run is to be held November 8.
 - The 14th Ride to the Tide for the Special Olympics will be postponed until 2021.
 - Kentucky: (Ruben Gardiner)
 - Most events are on hold.
 - The loss of KY XVI is offset by a new chapter, KY IXX, which is active.
 - Ruben was gratified by Kentucky's chapter participation in the Zoom meeting.
 - Maryland (Steve Smith did not attend): no report.
 - North Carolina (Bruce Smith):
 - Bruce is not licking any doorknobs and observing personal hygiene mandates.
 - There is incipient interest in the Ashville area and a starter kit will be sent once there are 10 viable members.
 - Tennessee: (Brian Gregg did not attend): no report.
 - Virginia (Mike Hart did not attend):
 - Mike Butler discussed efforts to secure a BK license plate for Virginia cars, trucks and motorcycles (but not trailers). A minimum of 450 commitments are needed but only 62 applications have been received. Butler and VA State Rep Mike Hart will see if the bill can be resubmitted to the legislature or an exemption can be obtained. They will give an update in Culpeper.
 - West Virginia (Marshall Parker did not attend):
 - Chairman Young asked Ed Martin to provide status on Marshall Parker.
19. Good of the Order
- Ronnie Young updated members on VA V's Summer Bash on July 22-26, 2020. The Summer Bash is still on schedule and 70 rooms have already been booked. There will have no meetings or politics. Registration is \$109 per person (\$200 for a couple) and room costs at the Delta by Marriott will be \$109 per night. These numbers are tentative; arrangements are being finalized so more info will be forthcoming once we see how Virginia is progressing.
 - No candidates for the MDC Executive Board, other than the current incumbents, are running for these positions. They incumbents will be voted on at the Fall MDC meeting in Culpeper.
 - No bid has been received for the 2021 Winter Conference. Mike Pollinger will report out within two weeks on DE I's willingness/ability to host. If DE cannot, Keith Johnson will raise the issue with VA XIII.
20. VA-II and VA-III made motions to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1053 hours followed by a grateful rush to the door.

Respectfully submitted,
John Weinstein
Secretary