

**Mason-Dixon Conference
2022 Fall Conference Meeting
September 4, 2022
Culpeper, VA (hosted by VA-II)**

Call to Order: 0935 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	No	West Virginia, Marshall Parker	Yes
North Carolina, Bud Overby	Yes		

- Appointed Positions

Chaplain, Mike Williams	Yes	Webmaster, Bob Rhodes	Yes
Sgt. @ Arms, Bruce Smith	Yes	Safety Officer, Bud Overby	Yes
Quartermaster, Keith Chase	Yes		

Recognition of Guest(s)

Current International Officers: DJ Alvarez, President; John Bull, Treasurer; Bud Overby, International Safety Officer.

Past International Presidents: Ronnie Young

BOG: Mike Rikert, BOG Treasurer.

Other Conference and Chapter Officers: Jim Trachta, SRC Chairman; Gerald Zollo, NEC Secretary.

Chapters Present (13): DE-1, KY-2, MD-1, NC-2, NC-4, NC-8, NC-16, VA-2, VA-3, VA-5, VA-13, VA-17, WV-2.

Non-MDC Chapters Present: Quebec-1, NJ-4, NJ-11, NY-1, NY-5, PA-7.

Chairman (Ronnie Young)

- Ronnie reminded members to be careful when giving interviews to the media and on social media. All should review the organization's social media guidance.
- The hijacking of MD-1's website and associated issues are under review.
 - *The new MD-1 website is BKMD1.org. The MDC and International have the correct links. If anyone needs assistance in responding to a hacked website, contact Fred Allen at Sundrake@verizon.net.*
- Ronnie cautioned the attendees to silence their cell phones lest they pay a \$5 "donation." Two generous members (Cal Ennals and Bob Rhodes) paid donations, rendering unto Caesar that which is Caesar's.

Vice Chairman (Keith Chase)

- There are no new chapters or starter kits outstanding.
- BK membership is declining. We need to find new blood. (This is a continuation of a theme noted by President Alvarez at the preceding night's dinner.)
 - Ronnie Young noted the Blue Knights are becoming the "Gray" Knights. We must avoid the fate of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association which folded (after their membership dropped from 80,000 to 10,000).
- Keith attended a regional meeting of NC chapters. NC is educating local departments about the non-outlaw status of the BK LEMC.

Secretary (John Weinstein)

- Minutes from the Spring 2022 meeting were distributed to all chapter Presidents and posted on the MDC website. There was no discussion or changes proposed.
 - Motion to accept: Ed Martin, WV-2
 - Second motion: Tim Stott, VA-5
- The minutes were accepted unanimously.

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

- IRS form 990 has been filed for the MDC.
 - Ronnie Young commented the 990 needs to be submitted each year and that gross amounts (not net) should be used.
- Account Balance Total Funds: \$13,735.49 as of September 4 (includes \$1830 for Hurricane Relief Fund)
- Invoices for 2023 MDC chapter dues will be sent in the next few months to the chapter addresses on file with the International office. Please be on the lookout and mail payments as soon as possible by the date on the invoice.
- If you make your payments online through the MDC website, please include your chapter number on the information requested. Also, include your chapter number on your check in the memo line if you pay by mail.
- Motion to accept report: NC-16
Second motion: VA-2
- Motion to accept was approved unanimously.

International Rep (Mike Pollinger)

- Currently, Total BK membership is 15,369. There are 60 chapters with 1779 members in the MDC. (Secretary's note: The MDC trails the European Conference (2370), Tri-State (2120), and the SRC (2011)).
- *Not discussed but important information from last meeting:*
 - *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)

- Bob is working with Go-Daddy to repair the website, which may be unavailable for up to two weeks. Bob will keep Presidents informed.
 - Ronnie Young advised chapters should not allow only one person to control the chapter website. Passwords and access should be shared among a few leaders.
- The MDC website is www.BKMDC.org .
 - Please send ride and event flyers to Bob for posting on the MDC web site.
- The MDC storefront is on the MDC web site. Presidents can pay chapter dues there.
- Bob's number is 704-534-3642; call if you need assistance.

Safety Officer (Bud Overby)

- Bud noted no major MDC safety issues. He appreciates all the articles and ideas he receives from members. He also reminded members that we are all safety officers and to remember to do a safety briefing before each ride.

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. Keith will accept cash, check or credit in person.
- Inventory

Item	Stock Level	Price
MDC Logo Cutout Stickers	82	\$2.00
MDC Logo Circle Stickers	53	\$2.00
MDC Coins	249	\$10.00
MDC Logo Patches	119	\$5.00
MDC Logo Pins (no plan to reorder)	46	\$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 asked for members to remember the following and keep them in our prayers:
 - Transfers to Heaven 1: Terry Hawkins (VA-20); sister of Harry Clark (MD-1); Edward Wheeler, father of Pamela Taylor (MD-1), lost his bout with cancer; and

Pastor Thaddeus Winkey, brother of George Winkey (MD-1) passed after suffering a second stroke.

- Other medical issues: Alfonso Moore (VA-13) underwent cancer surgery and received a good prognosis; Barbara Evans (VA-5) is dealing with blood pressure problems due to unknown cause(s); BOG VP Rory McConnell is recovering from neurological issues; Sheryl Allston (DE-1) is recovering from knee surgery and doing well, VA-20 President Scott Snoddy and wife Rachel contracted COVID a second time and Scott's father, Phillip, is in the hospital with Stage 5 kidney failure. He also contracted COVID in the hospital.
- Contact Mike to provide names/addresses of those in need if you want him to send a card.

Scholarship: (John Weinstein)

- No report. [2023 materials will be presented at the Winter conference meeting.]

Old Business:

- The Winter MDC meeting will be hosted by DE-1 again at the Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center in Rehoboth Beach on February 10-12. The room rate is \$79 plus tax for double occupancy. This rate is only guaranteed until January 10, after which it increases. See the flyer on the DE-1 and MDC websites. Registration is \$95 per person if received before January 10. After this date, it increases to \$105.

New Business:

- NO chapter had submitted a bid for the Spring 2023 MDC meeting so WV-2 had offered to host. Dates are May 26-28. Only 60 rooms have been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express so call early (304-630-2266). Room rates are \$125 plus taxes and registration is \$70 until April 30, 2023 when it increases to \$90. Contact Ed Martin with questions (bkvw2@aol.com).
- VA-2 will host the Fall 2023 MDC Conference.
 - Attendees at the 2022 meeting were advised to make reservations upon departure and all attendees should check to confirm the status of their reservations in the June timeframe. The Best Western hotel rate will increase from \$89 to \$95 next year after many years or remaining static. Bob also requested members with reservations whose plans change should cancel their reservations as soon as possible so others may obtain rooms.
- The following slate of unopposed MDC candidates were installed at the Fall meeting:
 - Chairman: Keith Chase, VA-2
 - Vice Chairman: Fred Allen, MD-1
 - Secretary: John Weinstein, VA-2
 - Treasurer: Keith Johnson, VA-13
 - International Rep: Mike Pollinger, DE-1

State Rep Reports:

- Delaware (submitted by Mike Pollinger):

- The annual Toy Run will be held November 13.
- See flyer on website for Winter Conference information.
- Kentucky (Ruben Gardner)
 - All KY chapters have renewed.
 - KY-11 and KY-7 had successful Cops Run events.
 - Contact Ruben to buy annual raffle tickets for a Glock 43. Cost is \$5.
 - IN-16 is holding a fall festival (no meetings) on September 17. Information is on Facebook. Glen Wheat is the contact person.
- Maryland: no report.
- North Carolina (Bud Overby):
 - Meetings for eastern and western NC state presidents are being conducted and there are plans for a possible state-wide meeting. The eastern meeting will be hosted by NC-2 in October or November.
 - Bud is trying to get NC BK license plates. [at a later point in the meeting DJ Alvarez said issuance of plates from a state shows we are not outlaws.]
 - There was good BK representation at recent LODs for officers. Chapters should work together to support such events. A donation from Bud's chapter on behalf of all NC BK chapters will be made to deceased officers' families.
 - The NC Facebook page (NC Blue Knights) has meeting and ride information.
- Tennessee: No report.
- Virginia (Ralph Bartley): see attached. Also reported:
 - VA-20 will host a car, bike and truck show at Stonewall HD in Orange on September 17. There will be a poker run benefitting the Ronald McDonald House.
 - VA-13's 23rd Toy Run will be held on October 15.
- West Virginia (Marshall Parker)
 - WV -5 failed to renew and chapter 1 is questionable; Chapters 2 and 3 are doing well. There is a lot of competition from Brothers in Blue, which admits all first responders. WV-3 is working with efforts to halt opioid spread.
 - *Marshall's email address: mparkerjr1949@outlook.com*

Good of the Order

- Comments from President DJ Alvarez:
 - Thanked VA-2 for a great (as always) event.
 - The International Outlaw Gang and Investigators Association still considers BK to be an outlaw organization because of the three-patch system. Please send brochures and info so stating to DJ so we can pursue a libel suit. In the meantime, ensure what we wear on our vests does not contribute to others' perception of us looking like outlaws.
 - People with renewal problems should contact International Secretary Jim Borza.
 - We can do many things to enhance recruiting, such as greater use of social media.

- BKs in the Ukraine are training civilians to resist Russia's invasion. Please keep them in your prayers.
- Commented that Bud Overby is doing a great job as International Safety Officer.
- Comments from Treasurer John Bull:
 - The 3rd Quarter Report is out. The report has a new page that shows available money for each conference to recruit. There is \$500 available for the MDC. Other conferences have bought tents and printed materials.
 - The next year budget will be coming out in November.
- Comments from BOG Secretary Mike Rikert:
 - Greetings from the BOG.
 - No payouts to date. A mishap attending or departing from any advertised BK function/event is eligible.
 - Total funds: \$252,551.02.
 - Per Keith Chase: the BOG has a new lifesaving patch. Future awardees will receive one in addition to a certificate. Past awardees desiring the patch may request one.
- Ronnie Young:
 - BOG VP Rory MacConnell is out of the hospital and recovering.
 - Submission date for recruitment and retention awards has been changed.
- Mike Hart (VA-3) recommended the conference pay at least one registration fee for each state rep. the issue will be placed on the next MDC meeting agenda for discussion.
- Mike Pollinger (DE-1) reminded attendees (*without much subtlety*) that other chapters should step up to host MDC meetings; it shouldn't be the same chapters year after year. There are many members and chapters with experience doing this and available to help chapters considering hosting for the first time.

Changing of the Guard: Ronnie Young turned over the gavel to new Chairman Keith Chase.

Closing Prayer (Mike Williams)

Adjournment: 1045 (75 minutes, a worthy goal for incoming Chairman Keith Chase!)

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Weinstein
MDC Secretary Extraordinaire