

**Mason-Dixon Conference
2021 Spring Conference Meeting
May 30, 2021**

Call to Order: 1000 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	No
Vice Chairman, Keith Chase	Yes		International Rep, Mike Pollinger	Yes
Secretary, John Weinstein	Yes			

• Appointed State Rep's

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

• 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: John Bull, Treasurer
Past International Presidents: Ronnie Young
BOG: Dominic Squillace (Chairman), Glen Wheat (Secretary)
Other Conference Officers: Myron Joseph (NY-9, Vice Chair, Tri-State); Doug Casteel (MO-3, Midwest Regional Conference International Rep); Lon Strayer (President, PA-12)

Chapters Present: (* denotes President/authorized rep): DE-1*, KY-2*, MD-1*, VA-2*, VA-5*, WV-2*, NC-8, NC-16, FL-18, NJ-5, IN-2

Chairman (Ronnie)

- Welcome back to the “start” of the new norm!!! Thanks to President Ed Martin, RexAnn, and WVA II for staying the course and remaining vigilant to locate the venue for today’s meeting. WVA II will remain the host location for the 2022 Spring MDC meeting in Elkins, WV.
- Reminder...this is an International election year. **Make sure to change your email IF you have a government address; ballots will NOT be sent to those email addresses. Ballots are out as of this meeting. IF anyone does not receive a ballot, contact us immediately.**
- Ronnie is looking forward to seeing everyone in Culpeper.

Vice Chairman (Keith Chase)

- Chapter update information
Total Chapters: 63
Starter Kits: 0
New Chapters: 0
Total Members: 1874 (ranked fourth)

Secretary (John Weinstein)

- Minutes from the Winter 2021 “Virtual” meeting were distributed to all chapter Presidents and posted on the MDC website. There was no discussion or changes proposed.
Motion to accept: VA-5
Second motion: WV-2
- The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer (Keith Chase for Keith Johnson, excused)

- Account Balance: \$15,736.21 (includes \$1800 for Hurricane Relief Fund)
- Chapter renewals: 54 of 63 have paid.
- Tax status: done.
- Motion to accept report: WV-2
Second motion: KY-2
- Motion to accept was approved unanimously.

International Rep (Mike Pollinger)

- Thanked WV-2 for an excellent event.
- International Convention 2021 “in Ireland” is canceled
- BOG is looking for a chapter to host the 2023 International Convention.
- Candidates for International election are: **See attached list.**
- BOD Meeting Minutes (see full text posted in “Members Only” section)

- International Honorary members were voted in.
- Elections are being held. Voting ends July 9.
- Membership cards are not as sturdy as older cards but the current cards save over \$10,000 per annum as well as computer costs savings.
- Mike complimented John Bull for continued excellence as International Treasurer. John noted he had financial info with him in the event anyone wants to review it.
- Several proposed bylaws changes (2021-0001 through -0003) regarding the posting of announcements and advertising for International Conferences were discussed.
- The next BOD meeting will be held in Prescott, AZ on July 11. Any items for the agenda need to be submitted nlt June 16 at 1600 hours.

Web Site (Bob Rhodes)

- Please send ride and event flyers to Bob for posting on the MDC web site.
- Membership on the MDC Facebook page is up 11%. 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 Rider Assistance Program (RAP). The RAP lists over 400 Blue Knights both in the US and overseas who are potentially available to help in an emergency. To access (and preferably join) the list, go to the International web page, go to the members only section, click on “programs” on the right side of the page, and then click on RAP.

Safety Officer (Bud Overby)

- Keith Chase complimented the articles sent out by Bud and the excellent job he is doing.
- A large portion of VA-5 took the “Ride like a Pro” training class. This is an excellent initiative.
- If traveling, be sure to tell family and friends your itinerary. Make a plan and share it.
- Since it’s the beginning of the riding season, check your bike(s) for air pressure, tire and hose dry rot, fluid levels, etc.
- Jack Larking (TN-3) helped a NY BK who suffered an accident while riding The Dragon.
- As we age and lose our strength, balance, etc., it may be appropriate for those who wish to continue riding to consider adding a third wheel.
 - *Bud is investigating the factors affecting the decision and timing to make the transition. He would appreciate hearing from members currently on three wheels.*

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 (next page)

Item	Stock Level	Price
MDC Logo Inside Window Cling	87	\$2.00
MDC Logo Outside Vinyl Stickers	97	\$2.00
MDC Coins	277	\$10.00
MDC Logo Patches	197	\$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.
- Chairman Ronnie Young complimented Mike on the outstanding job he continues to do for the MDC and the entire BK organization. The members in attendance strongly concurred.
- Updates on sick and distressed. Please keep them in your prayers.
 - 1) VA XVII, Ralph Bartley, 91 year-old mother fell and now resides with him.
 - 2) Wanda Delozier, MD IV, surgery
 - 3) Bert Littleton, DE I (continuing to improve)
 - 4) Ernie Davis, NC XVI
 - 5) Allen Evans, VA V, continues to recover.
 - 6) Bobby Goode, VA-5, cancer
 - 7) Rich Wilmont, VA-13, COVID
 - 8) Keith Johnson
 - 9) Cal Ennals' wife's mother passed
 - 10) Jay Hess
 - 11) Spike Johnson
 - 12) Rory McConnell
 - 13) Laura Rhodes, impending surgery

Scholarship: (John Weinstein)

- Recipients: addresses provided to Keith Chase for notification and coordination of checks.
 - 1) Alyssa Morrison (affiliation is MD-4)
 - 2) Christopher Ganoë, (affiliation is VA-17)

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 Rehobeth Beach, DE on February 11-13. A flyer is coming.
 - 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.

New Business

- Candidates for International office were provided two minutes to make a short presentation to the members present.
- Ronnie Young recommended members keep in mind:
 - Where candidates are from. They should be from all parts of the country to ensure equal representation coverage.
 - What they said and did if they were an elected official in the past.
- Brief summary of candidate statements:
 - President:
 - DJ Alvarez (letter read by John Weinstein): has served in many chapter and regional leadership positions. He has been International President three times already so has lots of experience and is ready to serve without any start-up time. One priority is working on recruiting and retention.
 - Doug Casteel: Being President wasn't on his radar. This is not about him; he is running because many past/present leaders asked him. He will work for what the members want, not necessary the BOD, because this should be a member-driven organization. Doug promised complete transparency.
 - Vice President
 - Cal Ennals: Cal rides 15-20k miles a year because he likes meeting people and making friends. He will continue to do the same irrespective of the election's outcome.
 - Myron Joseph: Myron joined the BKs in 1991. The organization needs a new recruiting video/advertising campaign. He is also working on virtual programs on member wellness. He will support the members' wishes.
 - Rory McConnell: Rory joined in 2004 and doubled his FL chapter in size. He has experience on the BOG as Chair (4 years) and the SRC Chair (4 years). He noted all VP candidates are friends and capable.
 - Treasurer
 - John Bull, unopposed for International Treasurer, noted that under his tenure, the BK organization is once again in the black, with about a \$70k surplus projected this year. He received a round of applause from the members present. He offered to answer questions about BK finances.

State Rep Reports

- Delaware (Eric Wagner, replacing Bert Littleton):
 - Ride to the Tide raised \$15.5k for Special Olympics. In 2022, 15k riders are expected and will travel in one group instead of two as in 2021.
 - The 38th annual Toy Run will be held November 14. Look for the flyer.
- Virginia: Ralph Bartley's report (attached) was read by John Weinstein. Ralph has made contact with most VA chapter presidents and is available to assist them.
- Kentucky (Ruben Gardner):

- All 12 chapters should have renewed by now.
- KY-11 has a COPS run on June 12.
- Maryland (Steve Smith): No report.
- North Carolina (Bruce Smith): No report.
- Tennessee (Brian Gregg): No report.
- West Virginia (Marshall Parker): No report.

Good of Order

- Summer Bash, per Ronnie Young:
 - Virginia V “Summer Bash” is a “GO” and scheduled for July 28-Aug.1st, 2021.
 - There will be event memorabilia, lots of food, endless hospitality, rides and adult beverages.
 - Room rates: \$109/night
 - Additional information on flyer. See MDC and/or VA-5 web site.
- Per Rory McConnell: The SRC will be held in Helen, GA, modelled after a German village, around October 1st.
- Glen Wheat reminded members of Best Western Rewards perks and that ride information can be found on the BOG Facebook page. He encourages chapter presidents to join.
- Next meeting will be in Culpeper, VA, hosted by VA II, on September 3-5, 2021. A flyer with all information is located at the VA-2 web site: www.bkva-ii.org . Attendees with rooms held over from 2020 should check with hotel to confirm. Members holding reservations who cannot attend are asked to call the hotel to release their reservations to accommodate others.
- The International Conference for 2023 is still looking for a chapter to host.
- Dom Squillace announced:
 - The BOG meeting will be held at 0900 and the general membership meeting will be held at 1300 in Prescott.
 - There is about \$259k in the Special Fund.
 - On June 26, there will be a ride in Maine to escort the ashes of Founder Ed Gallant to the cemetery. Contact Dom if you are interested in participating.

Closing Prayer (Mike Williams)

- Motion to adjourn: WV-2
- Second motion: VA-5
- Time: 1126

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Weinstein
Secretary Extraordinaire