

# Mason-Dixon Conference - Spring 2023

## Meeting Agenda

*May 28, 2023 09:30 am*

Call to order: Keith Chase (MDC Chairman).

<b>Executive Board Roll-Call</b>		
<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Present at Meeting</i>
Chairman	Keith Chase (VA-II)	yes
Vice Chairman	Fred Allen (MD-I)	yes
Secretary	John Weinstein (VA-II)	yes
Treasurer	Keith Johnson (VA-XIII)	yes
International Rep	Mike Pollinger (DE-I)	yes

<b>State Representatives and Other Appointed Positions Roll-Call</b>		
<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Present at Meeting</i>
Delaware State Rep	Scooter Boyer (DE-I)	no
Kentucky State Rep	Ruben Gardner (KY-II)	yes
Maryland State Rep	Phineas Young (MD-I)	no
North Carolina State Rep	Bud Overby (NC-VII)	yes
Tennessee State Rep	Brian Gregg (TN-IX)	no
Virginia State Rep	Ralph Bartley (VA-XVII)	yes
West Virginia State Rep	Marshal Parker (WV-I)	yes
Chaplain	Mike Williams (MD-I)	yes
Safety Officer	Bud Overby (NC-VIII)	yes
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bruce Smith (NC-IV)	yes
Webmaster	Bob Rhodes (NC-XVI)	yes

<b>Agenda Items</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Call to Order: 0930</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Moment of Silence.</li> <li>2. Opening Prayer – Mike Williams (MDC Chaplin).</li> <li>3. Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Reading of Blue Knights Pledge – Keith Chase. *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.*

2. Chapter Roll-Call and Report: John Weinstein (MDC Secretary):

- There are 58 Chapters in the conference; 12 Chapters were represented at the meeting (20% attendance). Approximately 50 members, spouses and guests attended the meeting.
- Chapters attending: DE-1; KY-2 and -3; MD-1; NC-4, -8, and -16; VA-1, -2, -5, and -13; and WV-2.

3. Recognized VIPs:

<p><b><u>INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Bull, Treasurer</li> <li>• Bud Overby, Safety</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>OTHER CONFERENCE EXECUTIVES</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ronnie Young</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>OTHER CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>BOG OFFICERS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glenn Wheat, Secretary</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>OTHER STATE REPRESENTATIVES</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>

4. Chairman’s Remarks: Chairman Keith Chase thanked WV-2 for a great conference.

5. Host Chapter Remarks: President Ed Martin (WV-II), thanked all for attending and said he hoped all enjoyed themselves. He also thanked the members of his chapter for their hard work.

6. Vice Chairman’s Report: (Freddy Allen): He thanked WV-2 for a great conference. Regarding membership, MDC has **58** Chapters with **1690** members. No starter kits are out. VC Allen compared current chapter and membership numbers to those in August 2022 (60 chapters [MDC decline is due to loss of VA-4 and MD-5] and 1774 members [a 5% decline]) and noted recruitment and retention remain continuing priorities. He stated he will work with State Reps to meet these priorities.

7. Secretary’s Report (John Weinstein): The Winter 2023 MDC Conference meeting minutes were completed and sent to the State Reps, forwarded on to the Chapter Presidents, and were posted on the website. Tim Stott (VA-5) moved to accept the minutes and Bob Robertson (VA-2) seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. Treasurer’s Report (Keith Johnson): Financial Report – See attached report for full details on deposits, debits, interest, quartermaster sales, etc. Report was read into the minutes.

9. International Representative’s Report (Mike Pollinger):

International is going paperless and matters pertaining to dues and rosters will be conducted via this medium. He reminded all chapters to conduct business on-line and to keep their mailboxes purged so as not to overflow. He invited any chapters having email account problems to call an MDC Board member. Webmaster Bob Rhodes provided his number: 704-534-3642. Members can call him for help.

- a. Expect to receive ballots for the International elections in mid-June, one month before the International meeting in Harrisburg. Ballots will only be sent to member's non-governmental/personal emails. Members should ensure International has an appropriate address. To check, log in to the members' section (use your membership number as your user name and your last name (ALL CAPS) as your password. Then navigate to the "members section" and then "members contact update" tabs.
- b. At the recent SRC Spring meeting, founder Chuck Shumer said the club has to get back to basics (i.e., fun and camaraderie). We, the MDC (along with Tri-State) can have a significant impact on the club's future if we get out the vote. We can do this by bringing laptops to chapter meetings to ensure all attendees vote. Check out the list of candidates on the BK International website ([Blue Knights® International Elections](#)) and vote for candidates whose views most closely align with the priorities discussed above.
- c. Mike Pollinger's contact information: [mdc.rep@blueknights.org](mailto:mdc.rep@blueknights.org) or 302-545-5301.

*NOTE FROM INTERNATIONAL REP: This report is a synopsis of board activity. Read the full minutes on the International website and currently emailed to each Chapter President.*

### **Representatives Reports**

*(Send Event Flyers to [MDC.Webmaster@BKMDc.org](mailto:MDC.Webmaster@BKMDc.org) for posting on the website)*

*This is a summary of topics presented by each rep. Check the MDC website for events.*

1. Delaware State Representative – Scooter Boyer (DE-I) is the new State Rep. Report delivered by Mike Pollinger.
  - a. Delaware has 86 members in its only chapter (DE-1).
  - b. The 16<sup>th</sup> Ride to the Tide raised \$49,000 for Special Olympics. The 40<sup>th</sup> Toy Run will be held in the Fall and the chapter will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August. See the chapter and MDC websites for additional details.
2. Kentucky State Representative – Ruben Gardner (KY-II):
  - a. Kentucky has 10 Chapter with 296 members.
  - b. Several chapters (7, 11 and 19) have conducted rides for current and fallen officers.
3. Maryland State Representative – Phineas Young (MD-I) is the new State Rep.
  - a. Maryland has 5 Chapters with 157 members.
  - b. MD-2's run for LE was attended by about 300 people.
  - c. Flyers for additional events will be distributed.
4. North Carolina State Representative – Bud Overby (NC-VII):
  - a. North Carolina has 18 Chapters with 417 members.
  - b. NC is doing well but relatively few NC members attend conference meetings.
  - c. The western half of the state continues to hold successful regional meetings each quarter. Bud is working on getting a meeting for the eastern half of the state.
  - d. Lots of rides are scheduled. See the MDC website for details.
5. Tennessee State Representative – Brian Gregg (TN-IX): No report.
  - a. Tennessee has 9 Chapters with 228 members.
6. Virginia State Representative – Ralph Bartley (VA-XVII):
  - a. Virginia has 12 Chapters with 372 members.
  - b. Ralph provided a detailed report. (attached)
7. West Virginia State Representative – Marshal Parker (WV-I):
  - a. West Virginia has 3 Chapters with 125 members.
  - b. Marshal hasn't heard much from WV-1. He visited WV-3.

## Website

1. Bob Rhodes – Webmaster:
  - a. ***We now use the official email address for each Chapter*** on the Chapter contacts page.
  - b. Send flyers to [webmaster@bkmdc.org](mailto:webmaster@bkmdc.org)
  - c. An MDC Facebook page is up and running.
  - d. Corporate Email System: International is switching to an in-house email system. If your chapter has not switched/set-up your account, do so now. Also, purge the files occasionally as there is a limited amount of space. Call Bob if you need help.
  - e. This is an election year; go to the members' only page on International's website to ensure your personal email address is registered (see directions in Int'l Rep report above).

## Quartermaster

1. MDC Sales Items: MDC Conference coins, pins and patches are available at the MDC website or can be ordered directly through the Conference Quartermaster (Keith Chase). We take cash, checks or credit cards or we can invoice directly, using Square payment. An MDC website link will take you to the store [[Home](#) | [Blue Knights Mason-Dixon Conference \(square.site\)](#)].

## Safety

1. Bud Overby – Safety Officer: [Robert.Overby@yahoo.com](mailto:Robert.Overby@yahoo.com)
  - a. Requested Chapters send him ride announcements. He solicits safety ideas from Chapter Safety Officers.
  - b. Asked Chapters to see if there is a desire to conduct safety training at future meetings.
  - c. Bud conducted parking lot safety training at the meeting. He encouraged everyone to be their Chapter's safety guru and urged all to make good motorcycling decisions always, and especially in light of the forecasted rain.
  - d. Bud also described the Road ID bracelet that provides critical information to responders if a rider becomes incapacitated on the road (or anytime).

## Chaplain

1. Mike Williams – Chaplain: [mikewmd1@gmail.com](mailto:mikewmd1@gmail.com)
  - a. Mike asked members to communicate with other members as many may need support.
  - b. Mike also asked for members to let him know of any who might need his services and assured all information is held in strict confidence.
  - c. Several members have transitioned to Heaven-1: Mark Thatcher (VA-8); Sampson (Sammy) Boone (VA-6); MD-2 charter member Curtis (Nick) Nunn; Sammy Archer (MD-1); Carrie Perkins-Spencer, mother of MD-1 Past President JD Perkins, and the father of William (Batman) Steen (MD-1) was funeralized.
  - d. Mike also noted members who are suffering various illnesses or recovering from medical issues and in need of our prayers and support: Gary Lafferty (VA-2); Quartermaster Kenneth Boone (MD-1); Vernon Oakes (MD-1); Eric Wagner (DE-1); Chaplain Sheryl Austin (DE-1)

## Old Business

1. Chapter Leadership Changes: Please ensure you email the MDC Secretary, Chairman and Vice Chairman along with the International of any Chapter changes (E-Board officers, website, and contact info).
2. Fall 2023 MDC Conference Update: President Bob Robertson gave an update on VA-II hosting over Labor Day Weekend (1-4 Sep 2023) in Culpeper, VA. The flyer describing the 47<sup>th</sup> Blue Ridge Rally is posted on the MDC website. Costs: registration is \$105 and rooms in the renovated Best Western are \$99/night. He recommends members with reservations to call the hotel to confirm. He also encouraged members to register online and pre-order a rally t-shirt to ensure you get one. Finally, the theme of this year's rally is ***"Fiesta Knights."***
3. 2024 Winter Conference Update: Mike Pollinger provided an update on DE-I hosting at the Atlantic Sands in Rehoboth Beach, DE (9-11 Feb 2024). Costs: registration is \$105 and rooms are \$99/night. See the flyer posted on the MDC website for additional info.
4. Payment of Fees for State Reps: Chairman Chase will present a proposal in Culpeper.

### **New Business**

1. Bids for 2024 MDC Spring Conference Meeting: WV-2 described the rising costs of holding the meeting in Elkins. The chapter is making plans to host the Spring meeting at the Pipestem State Park Resort in Hinton, WV. Information will be posted on the MDC website and will be available in Culpeper.
2. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration/convention will be held in Sugarloaf Mountain, Maine in July 2024. A contract has been accepted. The high cost of registration (\$175 at a minimum) and the high cost of housing were discussed in detail. Ronnie Young opined the exorbitant costs would result in attendance far below the planned 750 needed to prevent a further escalation of projected costs. His views were shared by others, including John Bull, Lonnie Strayer and Keith Chase. MDC/TSC is exploring the possibility of a joint venture to host a hospitality event. Further discussion on MDC funding was tabled pending receipt of additional information about projected costs. There was also discussion concerning diverting budgeted scholarship funds to cover some Convention costs for members... Bud Overby asked why the MDC doesn't use funds to defray the costs of members who attend. This suggestion was roundly supported by all concerned with the projected costs to attend the meeting. The Chairman will look to make a motion at the Fall meeting

### **Good of the Order**

1. MDC 2023 Scholarship: (*John Weinstein – Committee Chairman*): The only applicant, Maclay Cerny, granddaughter of VA-3 Director William McClellon, Jr., will receive the 2023 \$500 MDC scholarship. As described above under New Business, it was decided not to divert 2024 scholarship funds to defray attendance costs at the 2024 International meeting because the scholarship program remains worthwhile. Some noted the declining number of applicants in recent years and suggested it might be due to the difficult nature of the application essay's subject. *However, an opposing view on the essay is 1) We need to set high standards if we are going to call this a scholarship competition. Why shouldn't applicants work hard and stretch themselves? 2) The dearth of applicants is more a function of a generation that expects everything to be given to them and not wanting to work for anything; and 3) Given the high costs of college, some potential applicants may not consider \$500 a sufficient incentive to work for the rewards. Perhaps raising the*

*scholarship amount to \$1000 would encourage more to apply.) This topic will be on the Fall Conference agenda for further discussion.*

2. Conference meetings changes: Subsequent MDC meetings will start at 0900 rather than 0930.
3. Back the Blue Ride for Heroes: this Maine to Florida ride will occur June 18-22, with the ride passing through the MDC area on June 19. The route and how to contribute to this worthy cause is at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/vpk/> The MDC and several other Conferences are sanctioning this ride as a BK official event.
4. Tears from Heaven 4-Corners Ride: This 21-day/32 state/7,000-mile ride was announced. More info is at <https://oceanstatehd.com>.
5. VA-1 Thin Blue Line Ride: June 17. This ride will start at VFW Post 177 in Fairfax. VA-1's Facebook page [[Blue Knights Virginia One - VA I | Fairfax VA | Facebook](#)] has more info.
6. Insurance for BK Members: Keith Chase noted the offer members should have received provides \$4,000 free Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance. There is no need to respond if you do not want to designate a specific beneficiary or review current personal insurance. If you do not respond to the card, the payment will still be made to your estate, not a single person. Specific requirements govern AD&D insurance distribution.
7. Summer Bash: Ronnie Young ([rwybkva5@aol.com](mailto:rwybkva5@aol.com)) and VA-5 President Tim Stott ([mccop465@verizon.net](mailto:mccop465@verizon.net)) discussed the "Summer Bash", which will be held August 9-13 at the Delta by Marriott Hotel (rate \$119/night plus tax) in Chesapeake, VA. Registration is \$139 pp before July 1. Contact Ronny or Tim for additional information.
8. Glenn Wheat (IN-16), Candidate for International Secretary: Glenn briefly described his qualifications for the post, noting the thoroughness and timeliness of his BOG minutes. He said he's always available to assist members.
9. Cal Ennals, Candidate for International VP: His flyer was distributed.

### **Announcement of Mason-Dixon Conference Meetings**

1. Fall Conference Meeting – 1-4 September 2023:
  - Hosted By: Virginia-II
  - Location: Culpeper, VA
  - Information: [www.bkva-ii.org](http://www.bkva-ii.org)
2. Winter Conference Meeting – 9-11 February 2024:
  - Hosted By: Delaware I
  - Location: Rehoboth Beach, DE
  - Information: <https://bkdel.org>
3. 2024 Spring Conference: (hosted by WV-2; see above)

### **Announcement of International Conventions**

1. 2023 Convention:
  - Hosted By: Pennsylvania-V
  - Location: Harrisburg, PA
  - Dates: 16-21 July 2023
  - Info: [www.BKI2023International.com](http://www.BKI2023International.com)

### **Closing**

1. Closing Prayer: Mike Williams
2. Adjournment – (11:15 am). Next meeting 09:00 am/3 Sep 2023 at the 2023 Fall Conference

<b>MDC Contact Info</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.bkmdc.org">www.bkmdc.org</a>	
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Respectfully submitted:

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