

Mason-Dixon Conference - Fall 2023

Meeting Agenda

September 3, 2023 09:00 am

Call to order: Keith Chase (MDC Chairman).

Executive Board Roll-Call		
<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)	excused
International Rep	Mike Pollinger (DE-I)	yes

State Representatives and Other Appointed Positions Roll-Call		
<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)	yes
North Carolina State Rep	Vacant	n/a
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	Vacant	n/a
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bruce Smith (NC-IV)	yes
Webmaster	Bob Rhodes (NC-XVI)	yes

Agenda Items
<p>1. <u>Call to Order</u>: 0915</p> <p>1. Moment of Silence.</p> <p>1. Opening Prayer – Mike Williams (MDC Chaplin).</p> <p>1. Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance.</p> <p>Reading of Blue Knights Pledge – Keith Chase. <i>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</i></p>

enforcement community and the public, and the fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights.

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

- There are 59 Chapters in the conference; 17 Chapters were represented at the meeting (29% attendance). Approximately 100 members, spouses and guests attended the meeting.
- Chapters attending: DE-1, KY-2, KY-12, MD-1, MD-2, NC-2, NC-4, NC-8, NC-16, TN-6, VA-1, VA-2, VA-3, VA-5, VA-17, VA-20, WV-2.

1. Recognized VIPs:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President DJ Alvarez • Vice President Cal Ennals • Treasurer John Bull 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OTHER CONFERENCE EXECUTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronnie Young 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OTHER CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BOG OFFICERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary Pam Mclaren • Treasurer Mike Rickard (note: 7 payouts from Special Fund this year; >\$259K in fund) 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OTHER STATE REPRESENTATIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

- Chairman’s Remarks: Chairman Keith Chase: Call Great Lakes Insurance Company (Margie at 585-297-0632) if you want to take advantage of other insurance products beyond the free AD&D all Blue Knights have received in the mail. If you only want AD&D, you need not do anything.
- Host Chapter Remarks: President Bob Robertson (VA-II) thanked all for attending and the chapters members for their hard work. He advised those intending to return next year to reserve their rooms for 2024 upon checkout.
- Vice Chairman’s Report: (Freddy Allen): ... Regarding membership, MDC has 59 Chapters with 1734 members. No starter kits are out. There was a slight increase in the number of international chapters and members, but numbers are still low.
- Secretary’s Report (John Weinstein): The Spring 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. VA-5 moved to accept the minutes and VA-2 seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Treasurer’s Report (Keith Johnson): Financial Report – See attached report for full details on deposits, debits, interest, quartermaster sales, etc. As of September 3, 2023, there was \$12,775.18 in the MDC checking account. The report was read into the minutes.
- International Representative’s Report (Mike Pollinger):
 - a. The International meeting was held in Camp Hill, MD. Info has been provided.

- b. Audio from the upcoming September 30 meeting will be posted on the International's website in the "Members Only" section. Mike asked for inputs from the chapters nlt September 25. Mike will distribute the agenda for the September 30 meeting..
 - c. Proposal for a limit of 2 terms was ratified.
 - d. A proposal is pending to allow chapters to retain their charters with a minimum of 6 members.
 - e. Mike complimented VA State Rep Ralph Bartley for his communications to VA chapters.
 - f. Mike Pollinger's contact information: 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 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): Not present. Mike Polliger noted
 - a. Delaware has 86 members in its only chapter (DE-1).
 - b. The 40th Toy Run will be held on November 12.
 - c. The chapter celebrated its 40th anniversary in August.
 - d. See the chapter and MDC websites for additional details.
2. Kentucky State Representative – Ruben Gardner (KY-II):
 - a. Kentucky has 8 Chapters with 308 members.
 - b. All KY chapters are active and were represented at the 21st Ride to Remember.
 - c. Ruben is working to increase chapter representation at future MDC meetings.
3. Maryland State Representative – Phineas Young (MD-I):
 - a. Maryland has 5 Chapters with 159 members.
 - b. MD-2 will shut down as of October 1. Most of its members have affiliated with other MD or PA chapters.
 - c. Phineas is developing a recruiting initiative.
4. North Carolina State Representative – Vacant Position: Report by Bob Rhodes
 - a. North Carolina has 19 Chapters with 439 members.
 - b. The western half of the state continues to hold successful regional meetings each quarter.
 - c. Lots of rides are scheduled. See the MDC website for details. Bob reminded all to send event fliers to him for posting on the MDC website.
 - d. Mike Lewis (NC-2) was appointed to replace Bud Overby as the NC State Rep.
5. Tennessee State Representative – Brian Gregg (TN-IX):
 - a. Tennessee has 9 Chapters with 231 members.
 - b. Tommy Hayden (TN-3) was appointed the new State Rep.
6. Virginia State Representative – Ralph Bartley (VA-XVII):
 - a. Virginia has 12 Chapters with 381 members.
 - b. Ralph provided a detailed report. (attached). Some highlights:
 1. An all-chapters luncheon was held June 3.
 2. Ralph attended the International meeting in Harrisburg and sent a summary to VA chapter presidents.

3. Ralph attended Bud Overby's memorial service on August 7.
4. VA-20 will hold a fundraiser at Stonewall HD (Orange) for the Ronald McDonald House on September 16
5. VA-13 will host its 21st Toy Run in Danville on October 21.
7. West Virginia State Representative – Marshal Parker (WV-I):
 - a. West Virginia has 3 Chapters with 136 members.
 - b. Marshal thanked Ronnie and VA-5 for a great Summer Bash.
 - c. WV-2 is hosting the MDC Spring Conference.
 - d. WV-3 hosted Cops Run and an event for Gold Star Mothers.
 - e. There has not been any communications from WV-1; Marshal will investigate.

Website

1. Bob Rhodes – Webmaster:
 - a. ***We now use the official email address for each Chapter*** on the Chapter contacts page. Personal email addresses have been purged.
 - b. ***PLEASE*** send flyers to webmaster@bkmdc.org
 - c. An MDC Facebook page is up and running. DO not paste fliers from the FB page to the MDC website; it causes errors.
 - 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. Call Bob for help or with questions: 704-534-3642,

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. Position Vacant – Safety Officer:
 - a. Chairman Chase took this opportunity to thank Bud Overby posthumously for all of the work he had done on the MDC safety program. Bud will be truly missed; however, Heaven-I now has a great safety officer.

Chaplain

1. Mike Williams – Chaplain: 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. Mike asked members to keep the following people in their prayers:
 1. Heaven-1: Bud Overby, Lorraine Mines (MD-1).
 2. Recuperating from motorcycle injuries: Hammie (Iceman) Ashton (VA-1), March Hammes (VA-2), and Guy Poiermer (QUE-1).

3. Other medical issues: Harry Clark (MD-1), Mary Nelson (MD-1), Bill Haney (VA-17/past president), and Bonnie Hauser (Daughter of PA-1 member Carol Schmidt)

d. Keith Chase asked members to keep Mike in their prayers as well.

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. 2024 Winter Conference Update: Mike Pollinger provided an update on DE-1 hosting at the Atlantic Sands in Rehoboth Beach, DE (9-11 Feb 2024). Costs: registration is \$105 (at this rate until January) and rooms are \$85/night. These rates are good a day before and a day after the event. See the event flier on the MDC and DE-1 websites for additional info. The group number for the hotel is 10725. Mike also encouraged other chapters to host events and assured them there are many experienced conference members who can help.
3. Spring 2024 MDC Conference Update: President Ed Martin gave an update on WV-II hosting over Memorial Day Weekend (24-26 May 2024) in Hinton, WV. See the flier at the MDC website.
4. Payment of Fees for Appointees: Chairman Chase presented a proposal at the meeting: Starting in 2024, the MDC Treasurer would pay for one conference registration fee annually for each state rep, the chaplain, the safety officer, the webmaster and the sergeant-at-arms. The payments are contingent upon recipients traveling to a conference meeting outside their respective states of residence. The motion was discussed and approved. Keith will provide additional information at the next conference meeting.
5. 50th Anniversary (presented by John Bull and Cal Ennals): The 50th anniversary celebration/convention will be held in Sugarloaf Mountain, Maine 21-26 July 2024. The cost of registration is \$225, the high cost of housing and limited supply seems to be an issue. MDC/TSC is exploring the possibility of a joint venture, not yet approved by the MDC, to host a hospitality event. Further discussion on MDC funding was tabled pending receipt of additional information about projected costs.

New Business

1. Bids for 2024 MDC Fall Conference Meeting: VA-2 will host.
- 2.

Good of the Order

1. MDC 2023 Scholarship: (*John Weinstein – Committee Chairman*): Discussed about downward trend of applications and potential changing monetary value. Mike Hart advocated not making changes to monetary distributions since there is no cost if nobody applies. Ronnie Young recommended the guidelines be approved to state the Scholarship Committee has \$1000 to distribute as it sees fit to one or two candidates. Tim Stott also recommended amending the guidelines to state the scholarship could support any post-high school education, to include vocational training.
2. Keith Chase suggested State Reps hold meetings at each MDC conferences. One is being planned at the Winter Conference.

3. Cal Ennals announced he'd be selling tickets for the TriState raffle; Ruben Gardiner is selling tickets for KY chapter.
4. Pam [REDACTED] (Que-1) provided contact information for members wanting to send cards to Guy Poierier, also of Que-1, who was injured in a motorcycle accident. Cards should be sent for him in care of Que-1: 350 St. Pierre #103, Terrebonne, Quebec, Canada J6W5S7.
5. **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.
6. International President DJ Alvarez said TX-7 is raising money for 60 days for the Maui Police Foundation to assist officers whose property and belongings were destroyed by the recent fire.
7. Billy Wright gave an update on Pat Shraider: he'll be released from the hospital on September 11.

Announcement of Mason-Dixon Conference Meetings

1. Winter Conference Meeting – 9-11 February 2024:

- Hosted By: Delaware-I
- Location: Rehoboth Beach, DE
- Information: <https://bkde1.org>

2. Spring Conference Meeting – 24-26 May 2024:

- Hosted By: West Virginia-2
- Location: Hinton, WV
- Information: <https://bkde1.org>

3. 2024 Fall Conference:

- Hosted by VA-2

Announcement of International Conventions

1. 2024 Convention:

- Hosted By: International
- Dates: 21-26 July 2024
- Location: Sugarloaf, ME
- Info: <https://www.bki2024international.com/>

Closing

1. Closing Prayer: Mike Williams
2. Adjournment – (1103 am). Next meeting 09:00 am/11 Feb 2024 at the 2024 Winter Conference

MDC Contact Info

Website: www.bkmdc.org