

Mason-Dixon Conference - Winter 2024

Meeting Agenda

February 11, 2024 09:02 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) | Y |
| Vice Chairman | Fred Allen (MD-I) | Y |
| Secretary / Treasurer | John Weinstein (VA-II) | Y |
| International Rep | Mike Pollinger (DE-I) | Y |

| 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) | Y |
| Kentucky State Rep | Ruben Gardner (KY-II) | N |
| Maryland State Rep | Phineas Young (MD-I) | Y |
| North Carolina State Rep | Mike Lewis (NC-II) | N |
| Tennessee State Rep | Tommy Hayden (TN-III) | Y |
| Virginia State Rep | Ralph Bartley (VA-XVII) | Y |
| West Virginia State Rep | Marshal Parker (WV-I) | Y |
| Chaplain | Mike Williams (MD-I) | Excused |
| Safety Officer | Vacant | N/A |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | Bruce Smith (NC-IV) | Y |
| Webmaster | Bob Rhodes (NC-XVI) | Y |

| Agenda Items |
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| <p>1. <u>Call to Order: 0902</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moment of Silence. 2. Opening Prayer – Sheryl Allston (DE-1 Chaplin). 3. Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance. <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.

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

- There are 57 Chapters in the conference; 13 Chapters were represented at the meeting (22.8% attendance). Approximately 50 members, spouses and guests attended the meeting.
- Chapters attending: DE-1, KY-3, MD-1, NC-4, NC-16, TN-3, VA-1, VA-2, VA-3, VA-5, VA-13, VA-17, and WV-2.

3. Recognized VIPs:

| | |
|--|--|
| <u>INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS</u> | <u>OTHER CONFERENCE EXECUTIVES</u> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Bull, Internat’l Treasure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lon Strayer, TSC Vice-Chairman |
| <u>PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS</u> | <u>OTHER CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES</u> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None |
| <u>BOG OFFICERS</u> | <u>OTHER STATE REPRESENTATIVES</u> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None |

4. Chairman’s Remarks: Chairman Keith Chase thanked DE-1 for all their hard work resulting in a great conference. He thanked all for attending and for helping kick off 2024.

5. Host Chapter Remarks: President Mike Pollinger (DE-I) thanked the 102 attendees for coming. He also expressed appreciation to the Atlantic Sands Hotel for being great hosts.

6. Vice Chairman’s Report: (Freddy Allen): ... Regarding membership, as of December 31, MDC has 59 Chapters with 1740 members as of December 31. Fred noted that as of 1 February, 5 chapters had not submitted renewal packages. Of these, two chapters, MD-2 and NC-10 are disbanding, the former due to non-participation of members and the latter for frustration at their inability to recruit and retain members. The other 3 are being checked on. If these 3 chapters renew, this will bring the number of MDC chapters to 57. To date, International has processed 33 MDC chapters of those that had been submitted. No starter kits are out.

7. Secretary’s Report (John Weinstein): The Fall 2023 MDC Conference meeting minutes dated 3 September 2023 were completed and sent to the State Reps, forwarded to the Chapter Presidents, and were posted on the website. WV-2 moved to accept the minutes and MD-1 seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, without comment.

8. Treasurer’s Report (John Weinstein): Financial Report – Current balance is \$13,242.74 with \$1,850.00 earmarked for Hurricane Relief. The financial report was read into the minutes. See attached.

9. International Representative’s Report . Mike Pollinger, MDC International Rep summarized information from the most recent BOD call:

- a. There was a problem with the printer for membership cards. The machine has been repaired and membership cards are beginning to be distributed.
- b. All proposed International Honorary members have been approved. See International Secretary Glenn Wheat’s report.
- c. An illegal patch issue has been resolved.

- d. Guidelines for the International Board of Directors, written by the by-law committee, were unanimously adopted in executive session..

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): ...
 - a. Delaware has 87 members in its only chapter (DE-1), which is 40 years old.
 - b. Scooter mentioned its upcoming Toy Ride and the Ride to the Tide on April 14. See the DE-1 website for more information
2. Kentucky State Representative – Ruben Gardner (KY-II): No report.
3. Maryland State Representative – Phineas Young (MD-I):
 - a. Maryland has 4 Chapters. Phineas was asked to check with the members of the disbanded MD-2 to facilitate them joining other nearby BK chapters. He said some members have joined PA chapters.
4. North Carolina State Representative – Mike Lewis (NC-II): No report.
5. Tennessee State Representative – Tommy Hayden (TN-III):
 - a. Tennessee has 9 Chapters, all of which have renewed. Tommy has attended 3 chapters' meetings and spoken with the Presidents of two additional chapters.
 - b. Tommy has set up a Tennessee BK Facebook page.
6. Virginia State Representative – Ralph Bartley (VA-XVII): See attached report.
 - a. Virginia has 12 Chapters, 11 of which have renewed.
 - b. Ralph sadly attended several funerals and other events, For details, see attached report.
7. West Virginia State Representative – Marshal Parker (WV-I):
 - a. West Virginia has 3 Chapters, WV-1 is struggling but planning to attend the Spring Conference, giving us an opportunity to engage with and help them. WV-2 has 46 members and will be hosting the Spring MDC Conference at the Pipe Stem State Park in Hinton, WV. WV-3 has 65 members and is very active. The status of tenured honorary members (not lost when overall chapter membership declines) was explained.

Website

1. Bob Rhodes – Webmaster: Bob's phone number is 704-534-3642.
 - a. ***We now use the official email address for each Chapter*** on the Chapter contacts page.
 - b. Send flyers to webmaster@bkmdc.org
 - c. Corporate Email System: International has switched to an in-house email system. If your chapter has not switched/set-up your account, do so now. Using this email address rather than a personal account preserves information should an officer be replaced and his or her email is no longer available. Also, purge the files occasionally (delete deleted messages from the delete file) as there is a limited amount of space. Call Bob if you need help.
 - d. Bob reminded members that rides must be sponsored or, at least, co-sponsored by a BK chapter to be posted on the website. Rides not so sponsored may be posted on the

MDC Facebook page. While non-BKs may read posts, only BK members can post on this site.

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. The board is seeking nominations for a member interested in working on the safety program within the MDC. Send nominations to chairman@bkmdc.org

Chaplain

1. Mike Williams – Chaplain: (not in attendance due to medical issues) mikewmd1@gmail.com
 - a. Mike’s report was delivered by Secretary/Treasurer John Weinstein. John requested the members to keep the following members and their families in their prayers.
 - b. The following members are recuperating from various medical conditions: Russell Best (MD-1), Ed and RexAnn Martin (WV-2), John Bull (MD-1).
 - c. The following members and other individuals have transitioned to Heaven 1: Dave Jacobs (DE-1), mother of Kenny Fitzgerald, Tony Jenzer (VA- 17, Richard Morris and Karl Pearson (VA-8), Keith Johnson (VA-13 President and MDC Treasurer), Rory MacConnell (International VP), and P.T. Gordon (OH-17 and past International Treasurer).
 - d. Please keep brother Mike and Mamie in your prayers.
 - e. Mike’s report is attached.

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. 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. Registration is \$100 (\$125 after April 15) and room rates are \$99 per night. Cabins are available for chapters and groups.
3. 50th Anniversary: The 50th anniversary celebration/convention will be held in Sugarloaf Mountain, Maine 21-26 July 2024. International Treasure John Bull gave an overview of information. The cost of registration is \$225 (\$175 for teens and \$65 for children), and 198 paid registrations have been received to date. There is a Sunday-Monday registration option (\$50) as well. The high cost of housing (\$159 per night [limited air conditioning available but probably not needed]) and limited supply seems to be an issue. MDC/passed a motion, proposed by John Bull and seconded by VA-1, providing \$1500 to International to help defray International’s expenses. John is also looking for 15 volunteers from the

MDC to spend 2 hours each as volunteers. See the International website or contact John Bull for additional information or if you have questions.

New Business

1. Bids for 2024 MDC Winter Conference Meeting: MD-1 will host the Winter 2025 MDC Conference at the Holiday Inn in College Park, MD on Feb 14-15, 2025. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Good of the Order

1. MDC 2024 Scholarship: (*John Weinstein – Committee Chairman*): Two scholarships, each worth \$500, are available. See attached rules and application form. This year's essay theme is: What are the benefits of a college education? Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15.
2. MDC Elections. This is an election year. **All MDC Board positions are open**. All candidates must indicate in writing to the MDC Secretary Weinstein no later than April 15, 2024 their name, their intention to run, the office they are seeking, their chapter, and their years as a chapter president (a requirement). All candidates must have attended 4 of the past 6 MDC conference meetings. Notification by email is acceptable.
3. What Ronnie Does in Vegas Stays in Vegas. Former International President Ronnie Young (VA-5) is in Las Vegas rooting for his 49ers. He sends his regards to all.
4. Chapter and Conference Liability Insurance. As a result of a fatal accident of a BK who was riding to breakfast with several members in Florida, the individual rider, the chapter, the SRC, and International are all being sued. Lawyers' fee are debilitatingly high. The VA-1 VP briefed his efforts to explore obtaining liability insurance since this situation could occur with any chapter. Erie Insurance Company has quoted an annual fee of \$725 for VA-1. Whether a lower group rate can be obtained for several chapters (participation would be voluntary) is being explored. Neither the MDC nor International has such insurance. This issue is in the initial investigation stage. More information will be forthcoming. It was also noted that having riders sign waivers is not an effected protection.

Announcement of Mason-Dixon Conference Meetings

1. Spring Conference Meeting: 24-26 May 2024
 - Hosted By: West Virginia-II
 - Location: Hinton, WV
 - Information: see WV-2 and MDC websites for further information.
2. Fall Conference Meeting: 30 Aug-2 Sep 2024: Presented by Eric Radwick, VA-2 President
 - Hosted By: Virginia-II
 - Location: Culpeper, VA
 - This year's theme: Nighty Knights
 - Information: www.bkva-ii.org
 - NOTE: **The Best Western Hotel is now the Baymont. You are advised to call the hotel to confirm reservations made already are on the Baymont's books. The number is: 833-410-4071.**
3. Winter Conference Meeting: Hosted by MD-1. See information above.

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: Sheryl Allston, DE-1, delivered the benediction.
2. Adjournment (1037 am). Next meeting 09:00 am/26 May 2024 at the Spring Conference

MDC Contact Info

Website: www.bkmdc.org