

Mason-Dixon Conference - Spring 2024

Meeting Agenda

Call to order May 26, 2024 at 0900 by Keith Chase (MDC Chairman) in Pipestem, WV.

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 / Treasurer	John Weinstein (VA-II)	Yes
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)	No
North Carolina State Rep	Mike Lewis (NC-II)	Yes
Tennessee State Rep	Tommy Hayden (TN-III)	Yes
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	Felix Monterrosa (NC-VIII)	Yes
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bruce Smith (NC-IV)	No
Webmaster	Bob Rhodes (NC-XVI)	Yes

Agenda Items
<p>1. <u>Call to Order: 0900</u> Moment of Silence. Opening Prayer – Ralph Bartley. 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 enforcement community and the public, and the fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights.</i></p> <p>2. <u>Chapter Roll-Call and Report: John Weinstein (MDC Secretary):</u></p>

- There are **56** Chapters in the conference; **15** Chapters were represented at the meeting (**27%** attendance). Approximately **40** members, spouses and guests attended the meeting.
- Chapters attending: DE-1, KY-2, KY-3, MD-1, NC-2, NC-8, NC-16, TN-3, TN-6, VA-1, VA-2, VA-3, VA-5, VA-17, WV-2

3. Recognized VIPs:

<p><u>INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cal Ennals – NA VP • Glenn Wheat – Secretary • John Bull – Treasurer 	<p><u>OTHER CONFERENCE EXECUTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lon Strayer – TSC VC • Bryan Arnold – GLRC Treasurer
<p><u>PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronnie Young 	<p><u>OTHER CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p><u>BOG OFFICERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Rickard – Treasurer 	<p><u>OTHER STATE REPRESENTATIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

4. Chairman’s Remarks: Chairman Keith Chase thanked WV-II for all their hard work resulting in a great conference. He thanked all for attending.
5. Host Chapter Remarks: President Ed Martin (WV-II) thanked the attendees and said he hoped all had a great time. He wished all attendees safe travels and thanked the members of WV-2 for their hard work in making the weekend such a success. Ed reminded everyone of WV-2’s Wild and Wonderful weekend to be held the second weekend in June at a location TBD.
6. Vice Chairman’s Report: (Freddy Allen): Regarding membership, as of 25 May MDC has **56** Chapters with **1056** members. The MDC is the third largest US conference, behind TSC and SRC. International has **587** Chapters with **14508** members worldwide. MDC is the third largest Conference. Freddy noted addressed membership problems, linking them to bike prices and salaries. He urged chapters to seek quality members who eventually will take over responsibilities from older members. No starter kits are out.
7. Secretary’s Report (John Weinstein): The Winter 2023 MDC Conference meeting minutes dated 11 February 2024 were completed and sent to the State Reps, forwarded to the Chapter Presidents, and posted on the website. WV-II moved to accept the minutes and MD-I seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and without comment.
8. Treasurer’s Report (John Weinstein): Financial Report – Current balance is \$13,039.15. The financial report was read into the minutes. See attached.
9. International Representative’s Report . Mike Pollinger, MDC International Rep
 - Since April 15, 6 chapters and about 200 members have been added to the BKs.
 - 456 are projected to attend the 50th anniversary meeting.

- The 2025 International meeting will be held in Belgium the last week in June to avoid higher tourist season prices.
- Alberta-5 is expected (tentatively) to bid for the 2026 International meeting.
- The Board of Governors (BOG) biennial election will be held this year. Ballots will be sent to chapter presidents on June 17 and must be submitted nlt July 19, Candidates are: Chairman: Mark Howard, TN-3 and Dominic Squillace, PA- 10; Vice Chair: Roger Byars, TX-31 and Andreas Hohendorf, Ger-5; Secretary: Pam McLauren, PA- 13 (unopposed); and Treasurer: Mike Rickard, NY-5 (unopposed).
- Four proposals were addressed: 001 to expand membership by adding people involved in law enforcement (defeated); 002 to mandate uniform colors (failed); 003 to standardize the accounting system for international conventions (in progress); and 004 to mandate release letter for a member transferring to another chapter (failed).

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 BK International website.

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 – Delivered by Mike Pollinger (DE-I):
 - Delaware has 87 members in its only chapter (DE-1), which is 40 years old on Aug 23.
 - DE-1’s 17th Ride to the Tide for Special Olympics had 757 bikes and another 392 passengers.
2. Kentucky State Representative – Ruben Gardner (KY-II):
 - All KY chapters have renewed.
 - KY-19 has a Dice Run on June 1 and KY-11 has a COPS Run on June 8. More information is on the chapters’ Facebook pages.
 - There will be a run at the KY LEO Memorial in the Summer.
3. Maryland State Representative – Phineas Young (MD-I): Not in attendance/no report.
 - Maryland has 4 Chapters.
4. North Carolina State Representative – Mike Lewis (NC-II):
 - Great things are happening in NC.
 - There is a memorial ride in Charlotte for fallen officers on June 2.
 - Ronnie Young thanked Mike for stepping up to become the NC State Rep.
5. Tennessee State Representative – Tommy Hayden (TN-III):
 - Tennessee has 9 Chapters, 2 of which attended the MDC Spring Conference meeting.
 - Tommy has set up a Tennessee BK Facebook page.
 - Tommy has visited 5 TN chapters in person and 3 by telephone.
 - TN-3 has been involved in each of the 4 Officer Down rides in Tennessee.
 - Flyers of upcoming rides, with dates, times and places, are being placed in motorcycle shops. (See the TN Facebook page for ride announcements and information.)
6. Virginia State Representative – Ralph Bartley (VA-XVII): See report (attached)
 - Virginia has 11 Chapters.
7. West Virginia State Representative – Marshal Parker (WV-I):

- West Virginia has 3 Chapters, with 134 members.
- There are 63 members in WV-3 (the state’s youngest chapter). This chapter has been active in the fight against birth defects.
- WV-2 and -3 have been very active. All 3 WV chapters participated in the COPS Run.

Website

1. Bob Rhodes – Webmaster: Bob’s phone number is 704-534-3642.
 - ***We now use the official email address for each Chapter*** on the Chapter contacts page.
 - Send flyers to webmaster@bkmdc.org
 - 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. According to Glenn Wheat, 130 chapters are over the space available limit. Call Bob if you need help.
 - Bob reminded members: 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. Vacancy Appointment – Safety Officer:
 - Monty Monterrosa (NC-VIII) has been appointed as the new MDC Safety Officer effective this meeting.

Chaplain

1. Mike Williams – Chaplain: mikewmd1@gmail.com. Report delivered by Secretary Weinstein. Note: Mike Williams has retired as MDC Chaplain. Until permanent arrangements can be made, John Weinstein will handle chaplain correspondence. Please notify him of events requiring the chaplain’s attention.

Please keep the following individuals in your prayers:

- Health Challenges:
 - Chaplain Mike Williams (MD-1)
 - Gary Lafferty (VA-2)
 - Ed and RexAnn Martin (WV-2) and Ed’s mother-in-law (Zadah Talkington).
 - James “Odie: Odenheimer (TSC)

- Passings
 - JJ O'Brien, VP of CA-15 on April 12.
 - Loss of spouses: Eric Mines (MD-1); Out of Conference: Richie Springer, and Mike Rickard.
- Loss of friends and loved ones: Ronnie Young

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 2024 MDC Conference Update: Vice President Kevin Foltz gave an update on VA-II hosting over Labor Day Weekend (30 Aug – 2 Sep 2024) in Culpeper, VA. Registration is \$105 and the nightly room rate is \$95.
3. 50th Anniversary: The 50th anniversary celebration/convention will be held in Sugarloaf Mountain, Maine 21-26 July 2024. The cost of registration, which must be paid by July 1, is \$225 (\$175 for teens and \$65 for children); 198 paid registrations have been received to date. There is a Sunday-Monday “meeting only” registration option (\$50) as well. This option includes drinks and hospitality ***NO ON-SITE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE PERMITTED***. There are a few rooms still available in the hotel. John Bull is 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. See the International site for information about payment or contact John Bull.
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 and the suit is on-going. The gross negligence charge has been thrown out. VA-1 has been diligently working with Erie Insurance Company, in conjunction with the Conference and International President to explore obtaining liability for the organization because getting insurance quotes based off of our type of organization is difficult and drawn-out process. However, VA-I is committed to pushing to find a plausible solution. In the meantime, although release statements offer questionable protection against liability, they should be retained on ride registration sheets to demonstrate our commitment to safety. Also, a short pre-ride safety briefing is recommended for the same reason.

New Business

1. Bids for 2025 MDC Spring Conference Meeting: Monty Monterrosa (NC-VIII) announced a NC bid for a location in the Greenville/Washington area is being developed. More information will be provided at the Fall MDC meeting.
2. Anniversary Edition of Sword and Shield: The Conference will be submitting an article about the conference area and each Chapter is encourage to submit one photo for a collage. We only have space for a short 250-300-word synopsis about when the Chapter began and where, which we already have the list. Please submit one photo per chapter to chairman@bkmdc.org NLT 25 June so everything can be compiled and submitted per the editor’s request. This Anniversary Edition will replace the normal second and third annual editions.

Good of the Order

1. MDC 2024 Scholarship: (*John Weinstein – Committee Chairman*): One \$500 scholarship each has been awarded to Jessica Hartsky, daughter of John Hartsky (DE-1), who will be attending the University of Delaware’s College of Engineering and Cooper Lynn Barbour, daughter of Jimmy Brian Barbour (NC-12). Cooper Lynn will study psychology at Clemson University.

2. MDC Elections. This is an election year. All candidates were required to submit their names by April 15, 2024 for their intention to run for office. The candidates are:
 - Chairman: John Weinstein
 - Vice Chairman: Freddy Allen
 - Secretary/Treasurer: Keith Chase
 - International Representative: Mike PollingerBecause all candidates are running unopposed, in accordance with the MDC bylaws, the Secretary will cast one vote for each position at the Fall Meeting and the Board will be seated prior to the conclusion of the Fall meeting.

3. Chapter Anniversaries. VA-5 will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year. There will be a celebration in November. PA-12 (TSC) will also celebrate its 40th this year.

4. MDC Vice Chairman rode to NC-8’s Officer Down Ride. He appreciated the hospitality received and expressed his hopes for a larger turnout next year.

5. Byron Hope (MD-1) volunteered to serve as Secretary when the new slate of officers is seated in Culpeper. Since the nomination period had already closed, this issue will be addressed in Culpeper.

Announcement of Mason-Dixon Conference Meetings

Fall Conference Meeting: 30 Aug-2 Sep 2024: Hosted By: Virginia-II in Culpeper, VA. This year’s theme is “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 your pre-reservations are on the Baymont’s books. The number is: 833-410-4071.

Winter Conference Meeting: Hosted by MD-1. The MDC Winter Conference will be held 14-16 February 2025 at the Holiday Inn at 10000 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD. The hotel telephone is 240-542-1226. The room rate is \$124 per day. For the room rate, call the hotel reservation desk (800-465-4329) and use the group code MDC. The registration fee is \$105 and \$50 for children under 12 years old. After December 31, the rates for adults and children will increase \$10 and \$5 respectively. Please direct questions to Byron Hoe (202) 904-4892 [mpdcleo124@aol.com] or Fred Allen (703) 357-7556 [sundrake@verizon.net].

Spring Conference Meeting: 23-25 May 2025: A NC bid is being developed. More info tba.

Announcement of International Conventions

1. 2024 Convention (Hosted by International): 21-26 July 2024 at Sugarloaf, ME
 - Info: <https://www.bki2024international.com/>

Closing

1. Closing Prayer: John Weinstein delivered the benediction.

2. Adjournment 10:25 am.
3. Next meeting 09:00 am/1 Sep 2024 at the Fall Conference in Culpeper, VA.

MDC Contact Info	Website: www.bkmdc.org	
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