

Mason-Dixon Conference - Fall 2024

Meeting Minutes

Call to order Sept. 1, 2024 at 9:08 by Keith Chase (MDC Chairman) in Culpeper, VA.

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)	Yes
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)	No
Chaplain	John Weinstein (VA-II) [Acting]	Yes
Safety Officer	Felix Monterrosa (NC-VIII)	Yes
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bruce Smith (NC-IV)	Yes
Webmaster	Bob Rhodes (NC-XVI)	Yes
Chaplain Emeritus	Mike Williams (MD-I)	Yes

Agenda Items
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Call to Order</u>: 09:08 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Moment of Silence. a. Opening Prayer – Ralph Bartley. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance. 2. 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>

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

1. There are **57** Chapters in the conference; **15** Chapters were represented at the meeting (**26%** in attendance). Approximately **70** members, spouses and guests attended the meeting.
1. Chapters attending: DE-I, KY-II, MD-I, NC-II, NC-IV, NC-VIII, NC-XVI, TN-III, VA-I, VA-II, VA-III, VA-V, VA-XVII, WV-II and KY-XII (no proxy).

Recognized VIPs:

<p><u>INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DJ Alvarez – President• Cal Ennals – N.A. Vice President• John Bull - Treasurer	<p><u>OTHER CONFERENCE EXECUTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Russ Harper – TSC International Rep
<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">• Mark Howard – Chairman• Pam McClaren – Secretary	<p><u>OTHER STATE REPRESENTATIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None

1. Chairman’s Remarks: Chairman Keith Chase thanked VA-II for all their hard work resulting in a great conference. He thanked all for attending.
1. Host Chapter Remarks: President Eric Radwick (VA-II) thanked all attendees for making the 48th Blue Ridge Rally so successful, and that it is the attendees who make the rally. He also thanked VA-II members for their hard work.
9. Vice Chairman’s Report: (Freddy Allen): Regarding membership, as of 27 Aug 2024, MDC has **57** Chapters with **1678** members. The MDC is the fourth largest US conference, behind TSC, SRC and GLRC. International has **591** Chapters with **14752** members worldwide. Since the Spring meeting, we have seen an increase in membership, both internationally and in the conference. He advocated a “one-for-one” replacement strategy with a focus on quality over quantity. No starter kits are out.
10. Secretary’s Report (John Weinstein): The Spring 2024 MDC Conference meeting minutes dated 26 May 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 VA-I seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and without comment.
11. Treasurer’s Report (John Weinstein): Financial Report – Current balance is \$9941.97. The financial report was read into the minutes. See attached.

12. International Representative's Report . Mike Pollinger, MDC International Rep
- The 2025 International meeting will be held near Brussels, Belgium the last week in June to avoid higher tourist season prices. Check the International website for more info.
 - The Board of Governors (BOG) biennial election was held this summer at the International Convention. The new Board is: Chairman: Mark Howard, TN-3; Vice Chair: Andreas Hohendorf, Ger-5; Secretary: Pam McLauren, PA-13; and Treasurer: Mike Rickard, NY-5.
 - The 2026 International Convention will be held in Calgary, Alberta 19-25. It will be hosted by Alberta-5.

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@BKMDCC.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) Absent... Report by Mike Pollinger
 - Delaware has 78 members in its only chapter (DE-1), which celebrated its 41st anniversary on Aug 23.
 - DE-I's annual Toy Drive in support of the Salvation Army will be held on November 20. Check DE-I's website for more information.
2. Kentucky State Representative – Ruben Gardner (KY-II):
 - Kentucky has 10 Chapters, all of which are active.
 - KY-II celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024.
 - KY-XI hosted a LE Foundation memorial ride.
3. Maryland State Representative – Phineas Young (MD-I):
 - Maryland has 4 Chapters.
 - MD-I will host the 2025 Winter Conference February 14-16. The host hotel is the Holiday Inn on 10000 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD (240-542-1226). The room rate is \$124 plus tax and the registration rate is \$105 for adults (\$115 after December 31st). A tour will be led to the LE Museum in Washington, DC. Flyers were distributed and information can be found on-line.
4. North Carolina State Representative – Mike Lewis (NC-II):
 - North Carolina has 18 Chapters.
 - NC-VIII will host the Spring, 2025 MDC meeting at the Holiday Inn on 203 SW Greenville Blvd, Greenville, NC. The room rate is \$129 plus tax. Registration is \$110 (adult). Check out the NC-VIII website..Registration may be accomplished on-line or a form may be downloaded and mailed to POB 481, Greenville, NC 27835.iQuestions may be directed to david.newton53@yahoo.com (chapter VP)
5. Tennessee State Representative – Tommy Hayden (TN-III):

- Tennessee has 9 Chapters
- Tommy has set up a Tennessee BK Facebook page to increase information dissemination and improve communications.
- Tommy noted the increased attendance of TN members at the MDC meeting.
- *Chairman Keith Chase reminded attendees that any changes made to chapter bylaws must be approved by International. In the absence of bylaws or approved bylaw changes, chapters are required to operate under International bylaws.*

6. Virginia State Representative – Ralph Bartley (VA-XVII): See report (attached)
 - Virginia has 12 Chapters.
 - Ralph discussed the first annual Keith Johnson Memorial Toy Run on October 19. The ride will depart Thunder Road Harley Davidson at 1100. Check the MDC website for more information.
7. West Virginia State Representative – Marshal Parker (WV-I). No report.
 - West Virginia has 3 Chapters and 134 members.

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.
 - 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. Safety Officer: Monty Monterrosa (NC-VIII)
 - Monty reminded members to hydrate, even when riding in cold weather.
 - He also noted the extreme importance of checking tire pressure weekly, especially in the winter when cold weather causes a loss of pressure.

Chaplain

1. Chaplain Emeritus: With the retirement announcement of Mike Williams as MDC Chaplain at the Spring meeting, the MDC Executive Board voted unanimously to grant “Chaplain Emeritus” status to Brother Mike effective at this meeting. A plaque and documentation was presented to Brother Mike. Please continue to keep Brother Mike in your prayers.
2. 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).
- Passings
 - James “Odie: Odenheimer (TSC)
 - Ken Boone, MD-I
 - Hugh Valentine, MD-I
 - Keith Curry, VA-V
 - Diane Goodred, VA-V
 - Ruben Gardner noted the passing of a Kentucky member, and the death of a couple in a motorcycle accident.
 - (Per Pam McClaren) A member died at the International Convention.
- Loss of spouses:
 - Jeanine Mayot, wife of a past International president.
- Loss of friends and loved ones: **Any?**

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. Winter 2025 MDC Conference Update: Byron Hope gave an update on MD-I hosting over Presidents Day Weekend (14-16 February 2025) in College Park, MD. See additional information in the MD State Rep report above.
3. 50 Anniversary: The 50 anniversary celebration/convention was held in Sugarloaf Mountain, Maine 21-26 July 2024. The meeting was a great success, with over 500 attendees. International Treasure is compiling the financial results and will distribute them upon their completion.

4. Chapter and Conference Liability Insurance. International President DJ Alvarez addressed this issue: 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. 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. It appears a company is willing to work with us and are finalizing the details/fine print. President Alvarez strongly endorsed this initiative and thanked VA-1 for its hard work. More to come. 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. Various members addressed this topic, with several recommending the HOG road captain briefing. There is also information on the MDC website. Monty committed to reviewing this information.
5. Anniversary Edition of Sword and Shield: The Conference submitted information and pictures that were provided for inclusion in the anniversary edition of the magazine.

New Business

1. Bid for Fall Conference 2025: VA-II's bid was accepted unanimously. Chapter President advised those planning to attend next year have their name added to the registration list. Requests for specific rooms will be accommodated *to the extent possible, but no guarantees can be made*.

Good of the Order

1. MDC Scholarship: Attendees unanimously endorsed a proposal to change the title of the scholarship to the **MDC Robert "Bud" Overby Memorial Scholarship**.
2. Organizations Executives Time.
 - Int'l President: DJ thanked VA-II for another great rally. His comments about the ongoing law suit are discussed above.
 - Int'l North America VP: **I don't have notes for Cal's comments.**
 - Int'l Treasurer: This Blue Ridge Rally is John's last as International Treasurer. He is hoping to persuade a few business-savvy individuals to consider replacing him.
 - BOG Chairman: Mark discussed the pros and cons of an existing bylaw proposal to increase the number of honorary members from 1 in 10 regular members to 1 in 8. This change would align bylaws to the recent change allowing new chapters to form with 8 members. It would also help smaller chapters. On the other hand, it could dilute the "blue" nature of the Blue Knights, a position held by Mark. Several attendees spoke in favor of and against the proposal. Mark is waiting to hear the views of chapter presidents.
 - BOG Secretary: Pam gave an update on Guy Fourier's recovery and the status of Ontario 14 member Tony Brooks who was in an ICU following a motorcycle accident.
2. MDC Elections. This was an election year for the MDC Executive Board...All candidates were required to submit their names by April 15, 2024 for their intention to run for office. The candidates...
 - Chairman: John Weinstein
 - Vice Chairman: Freddy Allen

- Secretary: No submissions ... note, per our bylaws, this position will be incorporated with the Treasurer as one position.
- Treasurer: Keith Chase
- International Representative: Mike Pollinger

Because all candidates are running unopposed, in accordance with the MDC bylaws, the Secretary cast one vote for each position.

- Keith Chase addressed the Board as the new Secretary/Treasurer and stated that at the Spring meeting there was discussion regarding Byron Hope (MD-1) who volunteered at that meeting to serve as Secretary when the new board was seated. Since the nomination period had already closed, it was discussed that the matter would be placed on the Fall agenda. At this point Keith resigned the position of Secretary and recommended that the board appoint Byron Hope as the Secretary, in accordance with the MDC bylaws which state “Any vacancy in an elective office may be filled by the Executive Board at any time and will be reported at the next Conference meeting”. Keith stated that Byron meets all qualifications as set forth in the bylaws. The Executive Board held a vote and the new Chairman (John Weinstein) advised the Board had approved the appointment of Byron Hope (MD-I) as the Secretary for the remainder of the term.

1. Keith Chase turned the Chairmanship over to the newly elected John Weinstein, who thanked Keith for his leadership and service to the MDC.

Announcement of Mason-Dixon Conference Meetings

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: Hosted by NC-VIII. The MDC Spring Conference will be held 23-25 May 2025 at the Holiday Inn 203 SW Greenville Blvd, Greenville, NC. 252-685-6691 The room rate is \$129 +tax per day. For the room rate, call the hotel reservation desk (800-465-4329) and use the group code MDC. The registration fee is \$110 and \$60 for children under 12 years old. Please direct questions to VP David Newton David.newton53@yahoo.com

Announcement of International Conventions

2025 Convention (Hosted by Belgium-VIII): June 29 - July 4, 2025 at Sunparks Kempense Meren in Mol, Belgium. Registration is now open. Click the link for more information. [Blue Knights® 2025 51st International Convention](#)

Closing

1. Closing Prayer: John Weinstein delivered the benediction.
2. Adjournment 10:45 am.
3. Next meeting 09:00 am/16 February 2025 at the Winter Conference in College Park, MD.

MDC Contact Info	Website: www.bkmdc.org	
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