

# Mason-Dixon Conference - Winter 2025

## Meeting Minutes

Call to order Feb. 16, 2025 at 9:00 by John Weinstein (Chairman) in College Park, MD.

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

<b>State Representatives and Other Appointed Positions Roll-Call</b>		
<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Present at Meeting</i>
Delaware State Rep	Art Turner (DE-I)	X
Kentucky State Rep	Ruben Gardner (KY-II)	
Maryland State Rep	Phineas Young (MD-I)	X
North Carolina State Rep	Mike Lewis (NC-II)	X
Tennessee State Rep	Tommy Hayden (TN-III)	X
Virginia State Rep	Randy Myrick (VA-XIII)	
West Virginia State Rep	Marshal Parker (WV-I)	X
Chaplain	Barry Clark (VA-III)	X
Safety Officer	Felix Monterrosa (NC-VIII)	X
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bruce Smith (NC-IV)	
Webmaster	Bob Rhodes (NC-XVI)	X

<b>Agenda Items</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Call to Order: 09:00</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Moment of Silence.</li> <li>a. Opening Prayer – Barry Clark.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Reading of Blue Knights Pledge – John Weinstein. <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></li> </ol>

3. Chapter Roll-Call and Report: Byron Hope (MDC Secretary): There are **57** Chapters in the conference; **11** Chapters were represented at the meeting (**19 %** in attendance). Approximately **40** members, spouses and guests attended the meeting.

- Chapters attending: (SEE ATTACHMENT)

4. Recognized VIPs:

<b><u>INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS</u></b>	<b><u>OTHER CONFERENCE EXECUTIVES</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calvin Ennals – Inter. Vice Pres North America</li> <li>• John Bull - Treasurer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lon Strayer-TSC Vice Chairman</li> <li>• Russ Harper-TSC International Rep</li> </ul>
<b><u>PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS</u></b>	<b><u>OTHER CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ronnie Young</li> <li>• X</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• X</li> <li>• X</li> </ul>
<b><u>BOG OFFICERS</u></b>	<b><u>OTHER STATE REPRESENTATIVES</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• X</li> <li>• X</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• X</li> <li>• X</li> </ul>

5. Chairman’s Remarks: Chairman John Weinstein thanked all for attending and MD-I for all their hard work resulting in a great conference meeting.

6. Host Chapter Remarks: President Byron Hope (MD-I) Expressed appreciation for attendance and wished all a safe journey home.

7. Vice Chairman’s Report: (Freddy Allen): Regarding membership, as of 31 Dec 2024 MDC has **57** Chapters with **1,695** members. The MDC is the third largest US conference, behind TSC and SRC. International has **595** Chapters with **14,975** members worldwide. There is one starter kit being reviewed for a new Tennessee chapter. As of February 17th, 97 chapters in the United States had not renewed yet. In the Mason Dixon Conference 8 chapters were still outstanding. Mike Pollinger then advised that we had updates on 4 of the outstanding chapters and they were good.

8. Secretary’s Report (Byron Hope): The Fall 2024 MDC Conference meeting minutes dated 2 Sep 2024 were completed and sent to the State Reps to forward 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.

9. Treasurer’s Report (Keith Chase): Financial Report – 2024 ending balance was **\$10,627.83**. Conference donated \$1000 to JJ Bishop (VA-III) who lost everything during the fall hurricane in Florida. The International Convention Committee refunded the \$1500 the conference donated to help fund the convention when the final bills were paid and there was an excess of funds. Other items to note, after October 1<sup>st</sup>, the conference receives a check from International which is \$1.00 per member in the conference. The financial report was read into the minutes. (SEE ATTACHMENT).

10. International Representative's Report . Mike Pollinger, MDC International Rep

- The bi-monthly call for the International Board was just held. Discussed was:
  - A. Budget – Approved for the upcoming fiscal year. Once again, we are in the black.
  - B. This is an election year for the executive officers. This will be handled by Elections Trust at a cost of \$6,200 per Bob Autry. (See candidates listed below)
  - C. Sword and Shield Magazine; The decision was made to go to three (3) printed magazines per year.

Question – When does the voting period start? Answer – May 2025

- The 2025 International meeting will be held in Belgium the last week in June to avoid higher tourist season prices.
- The International elections will be held at the International Convention in June. The slate, all verified by Conference chairmen, is listed below.
  - **PRESIDENT:**
    - John Bull (MD-I) – MDC
    - Russ Harper (NY-XVIII) – TSC
    - James Trachta (FL-XXX) – SRC
  - **VICE PRESIDENT:**
    - Cal Ennals (NJ-V) – TSC [North America]
    - Gerald Zollo (CT-XI) – NEC [North America]
    - Thomas Elliott (ENG-XI) – UKIC [Europe]
    - Leonie Tromans (ENG-XIII) – UKIC [Europe]
  - **SECRETARY:**
    - Glenn Wheat (IN-III) – GLRC
  - **TREASURER:**
    - Brian Arnold (OH-XXV) – GLRC
- Other updates include the proposal to change the number of honorary members allowed in a new chapter (2024-005). Instead, proposal 2024-006, which was submitted by the Mason Dixon Conference, was passed. Article V, Section III will now read: Chapters forming with eight (8) regular or associate members will be permitted to have one (1) honorary member. They will not be permitted to have a second honorary member until their total of regular, associate and life members reaches twenty (20).
- Proposals 2024-007 and 2024-008 which required that any applying member have a motorcycle when applying for membership, failed.
- 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 BK International website.*

## 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 – Art Turner (DE-I):
  - Delaware has 72 members in its only chapter (DE-1).
  - Ride to the Tide will occur on April 13, 2025. There will be a limitation of 1000 riders plus passengers for the event.
  - The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Toy Run will be held on October 19, 2025. This date is a month earlier than previous dates and will start at a different venue (See flyer).
2. Kentucky State Representative – Ruben Gardner (KY-II):
3. Maryland State Representative – Phineas Young (MD-I):
  - Maryland has 4 Chapters.
  - Maryland I, with the assistance of other local chapters is looking to restart the Law Ride. Anyone with ideas or suggestions are asked to contact Byron Hope ([mpdcleo124@aol.com](mailto:mpdcleo124@aol.com))
4. North Carolina State Representative – Mike Lewis (NC-II):
  - North Carolina has 18 Chapters.
  - Multiple rides combined among chapters.
  - A Facebook page has been created for the state
5. Tennessee State Representative – Tommy Hayden (TN-III):
  - Tennessee has 9 Chapters
  - 4 new presidents, all new members.
  - Advised that Randy Myrick had a heart attack but is doing better.
6. Virginia State Representative – Randy Myrick (VA-XIII):
  - No report was provided
7. West Virginia State Representative – Marshal Parker (WV-I):
  - West Virginia has 3 Chapters.
  - There was a member lost however Marshal did not have all of the details.

### **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 contact's page.
  - Send flyers to [webmaster@bkmdc.org](mailto: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.
- If you have issues getting into the store (online), check your VPN
- Please forward your flyers so that they can be posted.
- Please make sure that your email information is updated through International. Each member has the ability to update his/her personal information.

### **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 thanked all the members for the outpouring of support upon the passing of his wife Shannon
  - Make sure to check your tires
  - If you are riding during this time period, please bundle up!

### **Chaplain**

1. Barry Clark (VA-III) was appointed as the MDC Chaplain in late 2024. Email is [chaplain@bkmcdc.org](mailto:chaplain@bkmcdc.org)
2. Chaplain comments ...  
 Provided cell phone number (804)- 824-4127  
 Please keep the following individuals in your prayers:
  - Health Challenges:
    - Gary Lafferty (VA-2)
    - Ed and RexAnn Martin (WV-2) and Ed's mother-in-law (Zadah Talkington).
  - Passings
    - Chaplain Mike Williams (MD-1)
  - Loss of friends and loved ones:
    - Sharon Monterrosa

### **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 2025 MDC Conference Update: 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](mailto:David.newton53@yahoo.com)

3. 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. 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 that a company is willing to work with us and are working up the details/fine print. 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.

### **New Business**

1. Bid for Winter Conference 2026:
  - No takers
2. Should MDC Conference meetings be reduced from 3 to 2 per year? (Fred Allen)
  - Fall and Spring Conference
  - Requires a By-Law change
  - Barrier, locked in to certain dates (Tommy Hayden).
  - Moving them off holidays
  - Potentially looking at having the conferences in either mid-April or May
  - By-Law change forthcoming in order to allow MDC members to weigh in on the possible modification to the meetings.

### **Good of the Order**

1. MDC Scholarship: What role does social media play in your life? Include positive and/or negative influences as well as your position on whether people under 16 years of age should be prohibited from this mode of interaction.
  - Two (2) for \$500
  - Having issues with limited participation
  - Due by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (this year)
  - Suggestion (Ronnie Young) that in order to increase the amount awarded, the floor is open to chapters making donations
  - There is an option that if only one person applies, s/he can be awarded \$1000.
  - Rules and the application form are posted on the MDC website.

John Bull advised that the lawsuit in Florida is in the process of being settled. Also, in New York, they had a rider go down. A payment was dispersed through insurance that they had.

2. Organizations Executives Time.

- Int'l President: Russ Harper; John Bull
- Int'l North America VP: Cal Ennals
- Int'l Treasurer: N/A
- BOG Chairman: N/A
- BOG Secretary: N/A

**Announcement of Mason-Dixon Conference Meetings**

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](mailto:David.newton53@yahoo.com)

Fall Conference Meeting: Hosted by VA-II. The MDC Fall Conference will be held 29 Aug - 1 Sep 2025 at the Days Inn/Best Western hotel 791 Madison Road Culpeper, VA

**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](#)

NOTE: There is now a Visa form that must be completed for international travel to Belgium

**Closing**

1. Closing Prayer: Barry Clark delivered the benediction.
2. Adjournment 10:48 am.
3. Next meeting 09:00 am/25 May 2025 at the Spring Conference in Greenville, NC.

**MDC Contact Info**

Website: [www.bkmdc.org](http://www.bkmdc.org)