

Mid-Knight News

SPRING 2022

www.blueknightsmwrc.com



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Spring has arrived but the temperatures here in Minnesota are still on the frigid side most days. There have been a few nice days but I have not yet taken the bike out. We had a hard rain a few days ago and light snow and high winds last night so winter is still trying to hang on. After Easter, the forecast is for warmer weather, so things are looking up.

For Conference news, Kansas VIII–Olathe, did not renew, leaving us with 31 chapters for 2022.

This year is an election year for all positions on the Mid-West Conference board. Below is Standing Rule #3 which outlines our process:

3. MWRC officers shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer, and International Representative. The officers shall serve two (2) year terms and shall be elected at the Fall Conference meeting during even numbered years. Candidates must declare (in writing) the office they seek to the MWRC Secretary/Treasurer prior to the adjournment of the Spring Conference meeting of the election year. No later than August 1st of the election year the MWRC Secretary/Treasurer will provide the President of each MWRC Chapter with a list of the candidates for each office. This is meant to allow the Chapter President to confer with his membership prior to the voting.

As I stated in the last newsletter, I am not running for re-election. After two terms I believe it is time to stand aside and make room for new blood. Good luck to all the candidates!

CONFERENCE OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN:

Brian Gadd

mwrc@blueknights.org

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Bobby Clark

Bobbyc153@gmail.com

SECRETARY/ TREASURER:

Tom Luellen

spd846ret@hotmail.com

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE:

Doug Casteel

mwrc.rep@blueknights.org

WEB MASTER:

Wayne Schwartz

wayneschwartz@comcast.net

SAFETY OFFICER / EDITOR:

Rick McCrea

mwrc.safety@gmail.com



This year is also an election year for the Blue Knights Board of Governors (BOG). If anyone is interested in running for a position, send a Letter of Intent to BOG Secretary Glen Wheat by May 1st. His email address is: Indiana.blue.knight@gmail.com . You must be a current or past chapter president to run for these positions. Electronic voting will



start on May 23rd and end on June 24th. The results will be announced at the Annual Board of Governors meeting on June 27th.

I'm looking forward to our Spring Conference which is being hosted by ND I in Grand Forks, North Dakota on June 10th – 12th, 2022. See information posted later in this newsletter for detailed information. ND I always puts on a great conference and I'm sure this year will be no exception. I hope we have a great turn-out and I hope to see you there!

Check out the Mid-West Conference web page for information on upcoming events as well as other conference related matters. <http://www.blueknightsmwr.com/events.html>

Hope to see you in North Dakota in June!

Ride with Pride!

Brian Gadd, Chairman
Mid-West Regional Conference



VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Hello again from Nebraska. I am sitting here on April 9th looking outside at the white snow on the ground. It seems that winter is holding on and is not wanting to let go. Looking ahead at the extended forecast, it is still looking to be in the 50's for at least the next couple weeks. Every once in a while, we get a day that is nice enough to ride, but it appears they are teasers, as it goes right back to cold. If you can get out on those nice days, please be careful with the sand on the roads and other drivers not looking out for motorcyclists.

Our Spring Conference is right around the corner and is being hosted by ND I in Grand Forks, ND on June 10th – 12th. By now, you should definitely be registered with hotels booked, but if you are not registered yet and not sure where to find registration info, please go to the MWRC website events page <http://www.blueknightsmwrc.com/events.html> for info and to get registered. While you are on the events page, please also check out the International Convention information being held in Killarney, Ireland on June 26th - 30th and MWRC Fall Conference on September 15th - 18th in St. Joseph, MO.

Speaking of the Fall Conference, it is an even year, which means MWRC officer positions will be voted on for the next two years. Candidates must declare (in writing) the office they seek to the MWRC Secretary/Treasurer prior to adjournment of the Spring Conference meeting of this year. No later than August 1st, the MWRC Secretary / Treasurer, will provide the President of each MWRC Chapter with a list of candidates for each office. This is meant to allow the Chapter President to confer with his/her membership prior to voting at the Fall Conference. On a personal note, just a reminder, that I do intend and have given the Secretary/Treasurer written notice that I will be running to be your Vice Chairman for another term. It would be an honor to serve the Conference for the next two years.



I hope to see you all in ND for the Spring Conference, until then, be safe, keep the shiny side up and ride with pride!!!

Bobby Clark,
Vice-Chairman
Mid-West Regional Conference

SECRETARY - TREASURER'S REPORT



It's that time of year again. The temps are trending upward, and taxes are due. That can mean only one thing, riding season is upon us! Social media is starting to fill up with pictures and stories from our brothers and sisters traveling to and from Blue Knight events (even from those who are not in the southernmost reaches of the US). I even saw one such story from a couple I know, who live in Connecticut, as they traveled to the March GLRC meeting on their motorcycle. Their pics looked like it was very cold, and even snowy at times. I can't decide if I want to call that trip commendable, or crazy. Maybe it's a little of both. By the time this article is published I'll be off on my first trip of the year, the SWC meeting in southern CA. Also working

in a side trip to see some cousins in the LA area. Late April evenings in the desert there are quite pleasant, so I'm looking forward to catching up with some west coast brothers and sisters over libations and stogies. As for the MWRC, I'm looking forward to seeing you all again at our first meeting of 2022, Grand Forks.

Speaking of our spring meeting, this is an election year for the MWRC. At the fall meeting in St. Joe, we will hold elections for all four executive board positions. If you plan to run for any position, you must declare your intent in writing to me prior to the end of the spring business meeting (an email is sufficient). I encourage anyone, who is at all interested, to throw a hat in the ring. As of this article, I have one person running for each position.

I haven't decided what other Blue Knights events I might like to attend this year. If you haven't ventured outside our conference, I encourage you to do so. There's lots of events out there, and many friends you haven't met yet. Have a look around various websites: International, the MWRC, other Conferences, and other chapters. Pick an event and go. You won't be disappointed.

I sometimes forget to mention that I have the MWRC patches and challenge coins for sale. I always bring some to conferences, but if you need any in the meantime, please contact me using any of the ways listed below.

Lastly, as always, I must remind all chapters that the annual MWRC dues are due. Each chapter owes \$1.00 per member, with a cap at \$25.00, to the conference. I must have your dues prior to the start of the spring meeting for your chapter to be eligible to vote on any business. Send them to the address below or bring them to Grand Forks.

Until then, RWP!

Tom Luellen
MWRC Sec/Treas.
2733 E. Battlefield St. Ste. 154
Springfield, MO 65804
spd846ret@hotmail.com
417-860-2633

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT



Since the last newsletter, I represented the conference on the International Board of Directors (BOD) in a few meetings with the following actions:

On 02/25/2022 the BOD voted unanimously to waive the 2022 annual membership dues for Ukraine I.

On 03/16/2022 a BOD meeting was held:

International Honorary Committee: Christine Fulton, King Albert II of Belgium, Joe Ball, Fred Noe, Terry Pendleton, Maggie Gallant, and Gov. Scott Walker, were all approved as international honorary members unanimously.

Internet Committee: Clean out your chapter mailboxes or the webmaster will start deleting your messages to make room.

Headquarters: We need to look at a source of income for funding as the annual expense will deplete the funds in 7-10 years. I suggested possibly looking into purchasing a new headquarters building with room for a museum hall that could be rented out as a source of income.

Treasurer: Motion to invest \$325,000.00 of \$650,000.00 in cash into 3 staggered CDs to increase the interest returns. Passed unanimously.

VP North America: Current Membership is 13,829 in 536 chapters with 10,989 in North America. Motion to approve the chapters with less than 7 members. Passed unanimously.

VP Europe: 2,840 members in the EC and UK&I. Ireland has dropped almost all of its Covid restrictions, so traveling to the International Convention should not be a problem. Right now, only about 256 people have registered.

President: Conferences need to take a more active role in recruitment and retention. Don't forget the Scholarships that are available. Details are available on the international website. 3 members of Ukraine I are on the front lines and the rest of the chapter is on standby. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers. The VA 5 complaint is still under investigation and a report should be made at the next BOD Meeting.

Office Manager: 30 chapters have done their online renewals, but their payments have not been received yet. 5 chapters are definitely not renewing Bel II, Ont IV, Va X, WV I and KS VIII. Sales permit renewals will be coming out in April.



and a

Board of Governors: There were 5 Special Fund payouts for 2021 in the amount of \$7,000.00. They are working on some bylaw changes for the BOG. This is an election year for the BOG. To be eligible you must be a current or past Chapter President. If interested send an email letter of intent to run to the BOG Secretary, Glenn Wheat at Indiana.blue.knight@gmail.com by May 1, 2022.

Ride with Pride,

Doug Casteel
MWRC International Rep
mwrc.rep@blueknights.org

WEB MASTER REPORT



Here in Minnesota winter just doesn't want to let go – we keep getting little snowfalls that coat the grassy areas and make the roadways slick and slippery. The temps come and go like a roll-a-coaster. One day we are up in the 60's and the next we are lucky to get into the low 40's. Oh well, the joys of living in God's Country!! As for the website, everything is running smoothly. We continue to get lots and lots of views so I guess it's doing it's job. Nothing new to report since the last newsletter. Just remember to keep me posted if you have any changes to your chapter mailing address or have an event you'd like listed on our Events

Page. Also remember to notify me if you have any member transfer on to Heaven One. The information and registration forms are posted for both the Spring and Fall MWRC Conferences coming up so I hope you will register and attend them both. I know both ND I and MO X are working hard to put on terrific conferences. I hope to see everyone in Grand Forks in June and until then remember to...

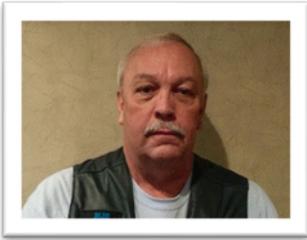
Ride with Pride
Wayne Schwartz
MWRC Webmaster
wayneschwartz@comcast.net

CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE

Chapter dues are due. In order to remain a chapter in good standing within the conference and be allowed to vote, each chapter must pay dues in the amount of one dollar per member with a cap of twenty-five dollars per chapter to the conference on a yearly basis.

Please bring your chapter dues to the Spring Conference or mail them to:
Tom Luellen, Secretary Treasurer
2733 E. Battlefield Street # 154
Springfield, MO 658

SAFETY OFFICER REPORT



Well, spring has sprung, or at least that's what the calendar says. As I write this, it's the middle of April, as usual, the weather varies greatly across the conference. While Oklahoma is enjoying warm weather, in Duncan, OK the forecast high for today is 91 degrees with sunny skies. In Grand Forks, ND the host of our Spring MWRC, which is less than two months away, today's forecast calls for a high of 22 degrees and a low of 16 degrees with cloudy skies. Currently there is around a foot of snow on the ground.

Now onto a couple of things related to motorcycle safety...

Do you know if your motorcycle has any active recalls? You can go to nhtsa.gov. Enter your VIN or just the year and make and model of your vehicle and you can see if it has, or has had any recalls. This website not only works for your motorcycle it will work for your car or truck also.

As I have said several times before, wearing a helmet is the single most effective way to protect yourself from a head injury. Make sure the helmet you pick has a DOT label. The label means the helmet meets Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, known as FMVSS 218. Make sure the helmet you choose fits properly. Along with the helmet, wear other protective gear, boots, jackets, gloves, etc. Proper riding gear not only provides protection during a crash, it also provides comfort during the ride. I have said in the past, ride like you are invisible, but why not make yourself visible. Wear high-visibility colors and reflective materials to maximize your visibility to others. And of course something we all know, riding a motorcycle can be dangerous. It requires your full attention, skill and coordination. Avoid riding when feeling sick or tired, and don't ride if you have been drinking or using drugs.

Remember, the MWRC has a Standing Rule that states: "All participants in parades or group rides at any Blue Knight Mid-West Regional Conference event must wear an approved motorcycle helmet."

Hope to see everyone in Grand Forks ND in June. Hopefully the snow will be gone by then.

Until then.
Ride Safe!!!

Rick McCrea
mwrc.safety@gmail.com

Blue Knights[®] International
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.

UPDATE ON THE 2022 FALL MWRC

The Fall Conference dates are rapidly approaching. Missouri X is looking forward to hosting the event September 15th – 18th, 2022. The conference will be held at The Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, 1201 North Woodbine Road, St. Joseph, MO 64506. The room rate is \$99.00 for double Queen or King. Registration rate is \$89.00 per person which includes two dinners, unlimited adult beverages, snacks, and participation in the Fallen Officers Memorial Ride, Saturday September 17th. T-shirts are \$10.00 with registration. Fillable registration forms are available on the MWRC webpage and there is a link on the MWRC face book page. Call the hotel at 816-901-9600 today to reserve your room. You can contact me at 816-261-7959 if you incur any hotel or registration problems. We are looking forward to having you visit our city.



The city of St. Joseph is a great tourist destination. Members will enjoy visiting attractions such as the Glore Psychological Museum, the Original Pony Express Stables and Museum, Jessie James Home and Museum, the Walter Cronkite Memorial and the Stetson Hat Outlet. Within a one to two hour ride are the historic towns of Weston, Missouri to the South and Jamesport, Missouri to the Northeast. There are also several wineries in the area. Hotel rates are good for the entire week.



We will have raffle prizes available during the conference which will include a tactical shotgun and a handmade quilt. If you plan on attending, we would appreciate you getting your registrations to us.

“Ride with Pride”
Donald R. Tyes, President, MO X
Missouri State Representative

STATE REPRESENTATIVE'S

Iowa:	Dave Eyman	BKIARep@gmail.com
Kansas:	Jim Miller	jimmiller@jim-san.com
Manitoba:	Peter Savinkoff	tundrapjs@shaw.ca
Minnesota:	Chris Boerner	cboerner9@aol.com
Missouri:	Don Tyes	bigdude@stjoelive.com
Nebraska:	Frank Bergmark	bikerbergs@charter.net
North Dakota:	Mike Knoop	mknnoop@srt.com
Oklahoma:	Tom Ashing	tomashing@cox.net
South Dakota:	Dave Thorsgaard	dq17thor@midco.net



STATE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Before each newsletter, I send out a request to each of the State Representatives asking them to send me an article for the Mid-Knight News. This time, I had five state representatives answer the request.

IOWA:

Iowa & Iowa I

On March 24th, members and family from Iowa I (Davenport) and Iowa III (Des Moines), met at the Ox Yoke Inn in the Amana Colonies for some fellowship over a home-style all you care to eat dinner. All had fun and we are in great anticipation for warmer weather and the opportunity to get together again soon!



Dave Eyman
Iowa State Representative



KANSAS:

Nothing to report.

MANITOBA:

No report.

MINNESOTA:

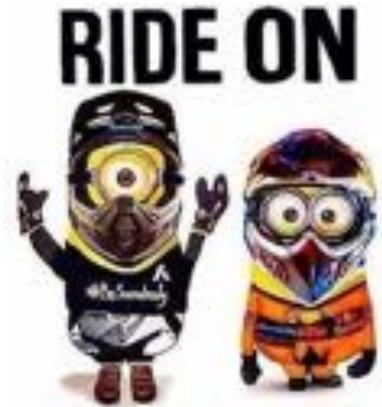
Happy Easter from the cold north country. There is still lot of snow in the woods, keeping our temps below freezing in the evening and not much better during the day. Looking up for next week though as we might see a few fifty-degree days.

Haven't seen more than a couple of bikes out so far this spring, I'm sure, because of all the sand that has not been washed off of the roads. Oh, and the icy patches also. So, we should be warming up soon.

Looking forward to Spring Conference and renewing old friendships. Oh, and a couple of river runs, Root & Redwood. Dan, Kim and I will be heading to Ireland for the International also. It's going to be a run, run summer this year along with lots of work around the tree farm in a short summer riding season. Unlike some others that ride through any type of weather

I'm kind of becoming a fair-weather rider. So, there is not a lot of time for riding. So, to all have a great safe time. And we'll see you when we meet again.

Chris Boerner
MN State Representative



MISSOURI:

The Spring riding season has arrived. Check your bikes and trikes for any deficiencies before you hit the road. In Missouri, the riding weather and conditions will vary, depending on where you live in the state.

Next up is the Spring MWRC. June 10th – 12th, at the Canad Inn, in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Check the MWRC webpage for hotel registration and conference information.



The Fall MWRC 2022 Conference was awarded to Missouri X, in St. Joseph, Missouri. The dates are September 15th – 18th, 2022. The conference will be held at The Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, 1201 North Woodbine Road, St. Joseph, MO 64506. The room rate is \$99.00 for double Queen or King. Registration rate is \$89.00 per person which includes two dinners, unlimited adult beverages, snacks, and participation in the Fallen Officers



Memorial Ride, Saturday September 17th. T-shirts are \$10.00 with registration. Fillable registration forms are available on the MWRC webpage and there is a link on the MWRC face book page. Call the hotel at 816-901-9600 today to reserve your room. You can contact me at 816-261-7959 if you incur any hotel or registration problems. We are looking forward to having you visit our city.

Finally keep our brothers of Ukraine I in your thoughts and prayers. They have some heavy lifting ahead of them.

“Ride with Pride”
Donald R. Tyes, President, MO X
Missouri State Representative



NEBRASKA:

Nothing to report.

NORTH DAKOTA:

North Dakota I is hosting the Spring Conference, which will be held June 10th to the 12th in Grand Forks, ND. They have the experience of hosting a conference in the past and this one will be just as good, weather permitting.

Pre-registration through May 9th is \$95.00, after that time it will be \$100.00.

The hotel site is the Canad Inn. Reservations will be \$89.00 a night and use the Blue Knights or code 39575 to ensure the price. The phone number is 701-772-8404 and is located at 1000 South 42nd Street in Grand Forks.

This will be my last newsletter as I have informed our current chairman, Brian Gadd, that I will be stepping down from the state director's position.

Mike Knoop
North Dakota State representative

OKLAHOMA:

Nothing to report.

SOUTH DAKOTA:

Hello from South Dakota! The last three months have been a roller coaster of a ride for weather. Extreme below zero chill factors, high winds and even a few days with record breaking highs in the 60's and 70's so some of us did get in a few miles but not a lot.

We maintained our numbers in renewals and did pick up another member as well. We could always use more members.

Our chapter has started to do a few things post COVID, to get our group together more. We are planning a few picnic rides, some overnight rides to Chamberlain, SD with our friends from Nebraska and possibly Minnesota in late April.





Another in Yankton, SD for a trip to Martinsburg, NE, for a round of burgers at Bob's Bar and Grill. The burgers are larger than the bun, the fries, tater tots and cheese curds literally fall off the plate there are so many. Best of all, the prices are very reasonable.



On March 25th and 26th, we held our annual Winter Blah's party in Deadwood, SD. The numbers were down from last year but we still got to visit with Brian and Brenda Gadd from MN, Frank and Marsha Bergmark, Danny and Janelle Dubs from NE. We had a much larger area this year with plenty of seating and accommodations to make it much more relaxing. Sherri was our activities hostess this year and I must say, she did a wonderful job getting everyone to participate. We played three sessions of hop scotch, with only some sore joints and muscles



later, some red light / green light and a short half mile one way excursion to Chubby Chipmunk for chocolates. The weather was perfect for the outdoor activities.

So, as you can see, we aren't letting the weather keep us down.

Until next time hope to see, you in North Dakota and always Ride With Pride!

Dave Thorsgaard
MWRC State Rep
South Dakota SD I