

The

Mid-Knight News

A quarterly publication of the Mid-West Regional Conference of the Blue Knights® International

Spring 2024 issue



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Editor:

Well, spring may finally be here, it's warming up and I have had the bike out a few times. The RGC is being hosted by AR-III in Springdale, AR in late April, about the time this edition of the Mid-Knight news will be published. Several members of MO-I are planning on making the long ride, to Springdale, all 100 miles.

That is depending on what Mother Nature brings, in southwest Missouri in late April, it could be snowing, raining or 90 degrees. We will wait and see if the trip is by 2 or 4 wheels.

Not only am I looking forward to the RGC, I am also looking forward to the Spring MWRC, which by now, everyone knows is being hosted by KS-III in Lawrence, KS from June 20th to the 23rd. The Fall Conference, is being hosted by SD-I from September 5th to the 8th. More information about the Spring and Fall MWRC is available on the MWRC Web-page.

Also, no chapter has placed a bid for the Spring or Fall 2025 Mid-West Conferences.



**From the M.W.R.C.
Chairman
Tom Luellen**

Spring is certainly in the air here in southwest MO. It's noon on this Friday when I'm

starting this article, and I'm sitting outside with coffee enjoying a glorious day. I hope you all find a day like this soon. Around here there's always the chance of a cold snap in April before it finally warms up for the summer. Three years ago April, I had to delay my departure for the SRC in Louisiana a few hours because it snowed pretty heavily the night before. I'm headed to the RGC in Arkansas the same weekend this year. We'll see if the biker gods smile on me or not!

A week or so ago, I sent an email to all the chapter contacts I have about upcoming Conferences. As of yet, no one has submitted a bid to host either the Spring or Fall 2025 MWRC. And, by the time we get

to Lawrence in June, the Spring 2026 meeting will be also up for bid. If you've not ever been a part of hosting a conference and are hesitant for whatever reason, I can assure you it's worth it. Seeing your MWRC sisters and brothers enjoying a weekend you put together is very satisfying. And, keep in mind, I am not above strongarming a chapter into hosting. I've done it before and I could do it again! LOL!

As a reminder, this is an election year. All four MWRC Executive Board positions are up for election at the Fall meeting in Spearfish. I will use this article to declare my intent to seek re-election as your MWRC Chairman. If you have any questions, please reach out using the contact information at the end of this article. I would encourage anyone interested in any of the positions to consider running. (A little competition is a healthy thing.) If so, you must declare your intent to run by the end of the business meeting in Lawrence in June. Later in this newsletter, you will see an announcement about said elections. Please keep reading and consider the possibilities.

I hope you are all well on the way to planning what events you will attend outside the MWRC this year. After Lawrence, some friends and I will spend a few days riding the Rockies in Colorado before heading north to Cody, WY for the West Coast Conference. We had planned to meander around for the two weeks between the WCC in Cody and the International Convention in Maine. However, one guy's kitchen remodel ballooned on him and ate up his budget so that part is out. I hate it when life gets in the way of our fun! So, I'll come home for two weeks before heading off to convention. I've been in Maine in July a couple of times and it is absolutely beautiful. I'm really looking forward to it. Sometime that week, we'll get over to Bangor and see the International Headquarters. Hopefully the fundraiser bricks will be installed by then so I can see the MWRC brick we purchased a couple years ago.

My virtual door is always open, so please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns. Until June, RWPI!!

Tom Luellen
MWRC Chairman
Spd846ret@hotmail.com
417-860-2633



From the M.W.R.C. Vice-Chairman Bobby Clark

Spring of 2024 has arrived but the temperatures here in Nebraska are all over the board. From the frigid side some days to 80-degree days early on in the year. It has been a good year so far for some riding.

Although I have not got on my personal bike at all yet this year, I have spent plenty of time on my police bike. We have had some hard rains and tornado warnings / watches already in the early months of the year. For Conference news, Spring Conference for 2024 is right around the corner, June 20th – 23rd in Lawrence, Kansas being held by Kansas III. Kansas III always puts on a great conference and I'm sure this year will be no exception. I hope we have a great turn-out. Unfortunately for me, I will once again not be able to attend the conference because of work commitments. That just so happens to be the exact time as the College World Series and I am expected to work traffic control.

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

- *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.*

While talking about work obligations and conference elections for this year, it is with a heavy heart I have decided that I will NOT be running for re-election as your Vice Chairman. I have had a great time working as the Vice Chairman of this great conference and met a lot of great people but do not feel like with my work schedule, I can give the position the time it deserves. Good luck to all the candidates who decide to run for BK MWRC Conference board. Check out the Mid-West Conference web page for information on upcoming events as well as other conference-related matters. <http://www.blueknightsmwrc.com/events.html>

Bobby Clark,
Vice-Chairman
Mid-West Regional Conference
Bobbyc1563@gmail.com



**From the M.W.R.C.
Secretary / Treasurer
Duane Potter**

Wow, by the time you read this, it will be mid April already. The days on the calendar keep flying by and it will be the end of June and our Spring Conference, before we know it.

2024 brings with it Conference elections. Standing Rule #3 states the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary / Treasurer and the International Representative shall serve a two-year term and shall be elected at the Fall President's meeting. Members seeking one of the four positions shall notify the Secretary, in writing, by the close of the Spring President's meeting of the election year.

MWRC Standing Rule #4 requires each Chapter to pay the MWRC dues of \$1.00 (US) per chapter member, up to a maximum of \$25.00 per year. As of the writing of this article only 12 Chapters have forwarded their dues. That leaves 19 Chapters that have not paid for 2024. There is still time to mail them, or you can bring them to the Spring Conference.

Speaking of the Spring Conference, I am looking forward to seeing everyone June 20th to June 23rd in Lawrence, KS. You have until May 1st to get your registration into Kansas III before the rate goes up. I have faith that Kansas III will be throwing one heck of a party.

Looking to the future, the Fall Conference will be in Spearfish, SD September 5th through the 8th. This conference is being hosted by South Dakota I and will also be their 40th Anniversary.

No Chapter has submitted a bid to host either conference in 2025. If your Chapter is considering hosting one of these conferences, get your bid together and make a presentation at the Spring meeting.

Duane Potter, Secretary/Treasurer
MWRC
P.O. Box 73
Goddard, KS 67052



From the M.W.R.C. International Representative Doug Casteel

Since the last newsletter, I represented you at the Blue Knights® International Board of Directors meeting via Zoom

on February 3rd. Here are the highlights from the meeting:

50th Anniversary Committee – Currently 251 people are registered. There are 38 people on the waiting list for condos with the majority of those wanting AC, which probably won't happen because it only averages about 75° for daytime highs there that time of year. There are 28 people on the waiting list for the hotel, which also has grim prospects, because it would require a cancellation.

Headquarters Committee – It looks like the pavers for the brick project will be laid sometime in May, so you can still purchase a brick until approximately April 15th. So far the program has raised approximately \$20,000 for the Headquarters fund.

Treasurer – We finished last year approximately \$28,000 in the red, which was mostly due to overages in legal fees because of the lawsuit, drastically increased insurance premiums, and trademark fees.

VP North America – Our current membership stands at 8,044 members in 355 chapters, which looks bad, but there are many that haven't been processed at the office yet because the deadline was only a couple of days ago. There are 59 chapters that haven't even opened their renewals yet. We voted and approved NY XII to renew with only 5 members.

President – There is nothing new to report on the lawsuit. If you are called by the Accidental Death Insurance Company and they keep on trying to sell to you after you tell them no, report it to headquarters. The company tracks which salesman contacts which member, so it can be dealt with if they are overzealous.

Board of Governors – This is an election year for the BOG and if you are interested in running for one of those positions, you will need to submit a letter of intent to the BOG Secretary Pam McClaren before May 1st. The 2025 International Convention will be held in Brussels by BEL VIII. The 2026 International is open and you will need to reach out to the Convention Committee and get the guidelines in order to submit a bid by the May 1st deadline.

Unfinished Business –

- There was a lengthy discussion into the investigation of the unauthorized black back patch that was sold by NY IX. Corrective actions have been taken.

- NY II – International Convention Audit is still waiting for an official ruling from the bankruptcy court regarding the host hotel bill.
- Executive Session Guidelines – The proposal was approved to outline when it is permissible for the BOD to go into executive session. It passed unanimously.

New Business –

- The following International Honorary Members were submitted and approved unanimously: Christine Fulton, Fred Noe, Joe Ball, King Albert II of Belgium, Maggie Gallant, Former WI Governor Scott Walker, and Terry Pendleton.

The next BOD meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 1100 hours ET.

I hope to see you at one of the upcoming Conferences or the International Convention.

Ride with Pride,

Doug Casteel, International Representative
Mid-West Regional Conference
Mwrc.rep@blueknights.org
+1 (314) 412-4449

**From the M.W.R.C.
Web-Master
Wayne Schwartz**



Happy Spring to one and all! The weather has finally turned warm and nice up here in the north country so I guess riding season is upon us all once again. Be sure to take things easy for the first few times out to reacquaint yourself with the skills you need to safely ride your stead. The

webpages continue to get a lot of views so I guess it is doing it's intended job. There is a lot of good information on the various pages so be sure to check them out if you haven't been there in a while. All the needed information is posted for the upcoming Spring and Fall MWRC Conferences to include the hotel information as well as the registration forms and other available information. The Spring Conference is quickly approaching so if you haven't yet registered be sure to do so as KS III always puts on a great Conference! And don't forget about the Fall Conference coming up in September in Spearfish, SD. That is great riding country as long as SD I can assure us all that they will keep the snow away ☺. It's not too early to register for that one as well. And even though I sound like a broken record, please be sure and notify me if your chapter has a member transfer on to Heaven I (as that seems to be the main sticking point that chapters tend to forget). If your chapters have any upcoming events this approaching riding season and you would like to get the word out, please notify me of the information and I would be happy to list it on our Events Page! Please stay safe and I hope to see everyone in Lawrence, KS in a few weeks! Until then,

Ride with Pride,

Wayne Schwartz
MWRC Webmaster
wayneschwartz@comcast.net



From the M.W.R.C. Safety Officer Scott Grabowski

Hello fellow Blue Knights! Let's look into our Blue Knights Pledge, which binds us together as a community of motorcycling law enforcement officers.

In part it says; **I pledge, promote motorcycle safety, being an example of safe use, and work to improve relationships with the public.** These are just a few words from the pledge, but how can we as Blue Knights, be examples of our club's pledge?

Promote safety. ATGATT. Jacket, gloves, boots and helmet. Mandatory helmet states have less deaths per ratio of crashes than optional helmet states.

Lead by **example of safe use.** Adhere to speed limits, ride with traffic, and avoid risky maneuvers. In our conference, 58% of motorcycle fatalities in 2023 resulted from speed-related, single-vehicle crashes.

Improve relationships with the public. Attend local motorcycle events proudly wearing our Blue Knights colors. Be approachable, engage with the public and answer their questions about our organization. Our interactions shape their views of us.

Let's all do our part and promote our club in a positive way.

I hope to see you at the Spring Conference and at the safety class. I ask that all of you invest just 20 minutes in the safety class. No judgment—only skill improvement. Let's enhance our riding abilities and reinforce our commitment to safety.

Patch collectors, bring some patches and look me up.

Till then. RWP Ride Safe and Practice often.

Scott Grabowski
MWRC Safety Officer
mwrc.safety@gmail.com

Update on the Spring 2024 Conference

Kansas III will be hosting the Spring 2024 Midwest Regional Conference Thursday, June 20th – Sunday, June 23rd, 2024.

It will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Lawrence, 200 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, KS 66044 (785-841-7077). The rooms are \$149.00 (King or 2 Queens, 1 to 4 people) per night plus tax. Hot breakfast buffet for up to 4 people per room is included. Rate is good for reservations made through May 19th, 2024. \$249.00 (regular rate) for reservations made after May 19, 2024. Mention Blue Knights to get the discounted rate. The conference costs \$95.00 per person through May 1st, 2024. \$110.00 after May 1st. The conference information and registration is on the MWRC webpage.

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS.

With your paid registration you will get:

24-hour hospitality room Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Hot breakfast buffet Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings.

Lunch Friday afternoon at the Kansas III Clubhouse Complex.

Banquet dinner Saturday night.

Country fried steak topped with country-style gravy, or breaded chicken parmesan topped with parmesan cheese and tomato fennel sauce, or alfredo cheese tortellini topped with shaved parmesan, plus caesar salad, garlic mashed potatoes, home-style green beans, warm rolls, red velvet cake

DJ Thursday night.

Live music Friday night.

Bikini bike wash Friday & Saturday.

Lots of raffle items, including an AR-15, .223 / 5.56.

And more FUN than you'll know what to do with!

COME JOIN US!

Jim Miller
Kansas State Rep
Kansas III President

Update on the Fall 2024 Conference

See South Dakota State Representative report.



Mid-Knight News Requirements

The Mid-Knight News is published quarterly. The deadlines are January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, October 15th, with the projected publication being February 1st, May 1st, August 1st, and November 1st.

Any member of the Blue Knights MWRC can submit an article for publication. However, the article must be sent from the Chapter Corporate e-mail. This ensures chapter approval of the article and its contents.

Articles should be submitted in MS "WORD" in Arial 12 - point with justified left and right margins. Please try to limit your article to one page. Photos may also be submitted, but please send them in a "jpeg" format.

CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE

In order for a chapter to remain in good standing with the Conference, each chapter must pay dues of one dollar per member with a maximum of twenty-five to the Conference on an annual basis.

The dues must be paid before the chapter will be allowed to vote at the MWRC business meeting.

You can mail your dues to:

Mid-West Regional Conference
P.O. Box 73,
Goddard, KS 6705

MWRC State Representatives Contact Information

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:	VACANT	
Oklahoma:	Tom Ashing	tomashing@cox.net
South Dakota:	Dave Thorsgaard	dg17thor@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.

Iowa Representative Dave Eyman

No response

Kansas Representative Jim Miller

Kansas III is looking forward to hosting the upcoming MWRC Conference in Lawrence, KS June 20th - 23rd, 2024. When we hosted in 2017, attendees had the option of going on a long, scenic ride or going to the Kansas III clubhouse for a cookout. Many went on the ride, which was a great time; but that meant they did not get to see the clubhouse. We are correcting that this time! We will have plenty of rides, but everyone will have an opportunity to visit the clubhouse! The Kansas III clubhouse is in the Ride4Cops Complex, so you can also learn more about the Ride4Cops mission and history.

The Kansas III Wall of Honored Guests is a wall in the clubhouse that honors each Blue Knights Chapter who has had a member visit the clubhouse. I am happy to announce that we are putting the finishing touches on the wall, and I look forward to unveiling it at the Conference! When you visit the clubhouse in June, if your chapter is not yet represented on the wall, be sure to let me know so that we can add your chapter information to commemorate your visit.

I can't wait to see you all in June!

"Ride With Pride"

Jim Miller
Kansas State Rep
Kansas III President

Manitoba Representative Peter Savinkoff

No report

Minnesota Representative Chris Boerner

No response

Missouri Representative Don Tyes

The weather has been unseasonably warm in Missouri this year. Our spring came early. This has made for an early riding season. Many chapters have already taken their first group rides and are planning many more. Get out and enjoy the sunshine and cool breezes. Life is short, enjoy it as much and as long as you can.

The Missouri Peace Officer's Memorial is scheduled for May 3rd and 4th, 2024 at the Missouri State Capital in Jefferson City, Missouri. The candlelight vigil is at 8:00 p.m. on May 3rd and the memorial Service is at 10:00 a.m. on May 4th. Be there to show your support to the survivors of these heroes, if your schedule permits.

Next up, Kansas III will host the 2024 Spring Conference. The Conference will be held June 20th – 23rd, at the DoubleTree Hotel, 200 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, Kansas. Get your hotel reservations and conference registrations in if you are planning on attending, as soon as you can.

“Ride with Pride”

Donald R. Tyes, President, MO X
Missouri State Representative, RWP

Nebraska Representative Frank Bergmark

Nebraska I and South Dakota I will meet up on May 3rd & 4th, in Valentine, Nebraska for the annual Too Early Ride. The venue is the Niobrara Lodge. A block of rooms are saved for Blue Knights until April 20th if anyone would like to join us. We eat, drink (not as much as we used to), ride and make merry.

Marcia and I are attending the Southwest Conference in Colorado Springs the Sunday to Thursday prior to the Spring MWRC. We'll meet some of SD I there and ride to Lawrence. Looking forward to both.

North Dakota Representative VACANT

Representative wanted
If interested, contact
MWRC Chairman Tom Luellen



Oklahoma Representative Tom Ashing

Nothing to report

South Dakota Representative Dave Thorsgaard

Well Spring is finally here, but Mother Nature has a different frame of mind. As I write this, it is snowing with up to 7 inches predicted. Then a short warm up and another snow storm after that. Not to really complain though, we need the moisture and the weather has been very mild the past few months. Some of us have taken the bikes out for some short rides, mostly lower hills and prairie routes for now. They have not used a lot of sand this year so the roads aren't too bad.



In March, we held our annual Winter Blah's Get a Way at the Comfort Inn in Deadwood, South Dakota. We were joined by our friends from Minnesota, Nebraska and Colorado. We even had t-shirts made up for the event. A first for us and they did go over very well. May even try it again next year. Saturday, we had lunch at Mustang Sally's downtown. That night, we had supper at Boston's Pizza. Back at the hotel, we had a corn-hole tournament, lots of conversation and fellowship. It's always great to get with friends and family after a winter separation.

We do have a group going to Colorado Springs this year for the SWRC June 16th - 19th then on to our MWRC in Lawrence, Kansas the 20th - 23rd. Really looking forward to making new friends in the SWRC and seeing our brothers and sisters in Lawrence. See you all there, RWP!

Fall 2024 Conference update, things are moving along very well as we plan to host everyone for our 40th Anniversary event in Spearfish, South Dakota. Host hotel is the Holiday Inn. We have added more information on the MWRC website events section for camping information. Chris' Campground which is about 2 miles from the host hotel, will be giving rates for those of you that choose to camp or bring your RV. We have so many ride destinations from the host hotel it is difficult to choose routes for group rides but I guarantee we will have them for you.

All current information is posted on the MWRC website with the hotel address and phone number for reservations. As of this writing, the hotel is about one third booked for our event, but it is still early and are sure we will see more after the Spring Conference in Lawrence, KS.

Ride Safe, Ride With Pride!
Dave Thorsgaard
MWRC State Representative
BK SD I

STANDING RULES FOR THE MWRC



1. Carrying firearms at MWRC events after consuming alcoholic beverages is prohibited. Event hosts are required to provide secure storage for firearms if requested by any attendee.

2. All members are entitled to make motions and participate in discussions during Conference meetings. However, only the President (or Regular Member appointed by the President) of each MWRC Chapter in good standing will be allowed to vote on items of business and candidates for office at Conference meetings. Any Chapter which has not paid its annual dues shall not be considered in good standing.



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.



4. Each Chapter in the MWRC shall pay annual dues to the Conference in the amount of \$1.00 (US) per chapter member, up to a maximum of \$25.00 (US) per year.



5. Bids to host MWRC conferences may be accepted up to two (2) years in advance.

6. All participants in parades or group rides, at any Blue Knights® Midwest Regional Conference event, must wear an approved motorcycle helmet.



7. The MWRC board will notify any active chapter within 50 miles prior to authorizing a charter to any new chapter, however final determination and approval will reside with the board