

**Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club
Maryland-Chapter 1
(General Membership Meeting)
Meeting Minutes**

October 10, 2023

I. Call to order

President Byron Hope called to order the General Membership Meeting of the Blue Knights-LEMCMaryland -Chapter 1, at 1949 hrs. on October 10, 2023, at the FOP Lodge 89.

- Waldo “WW” Johnson opened the meeting with a prayer.
- President Hope led the membership in a moment of Silence for Heaven One members. He also read the Blue Knights Pledge.

II. President’s Report/Elections

- President Hope’s 1st order of business was to have Mr. Donald Thigpen conduct the elections of the 2023-2024 Maryland-I officers and directors.

Mr. Donald Thigpen, our chapter parliamentarian, reminded the membership of who was nominated and who was running unopposed and passed out election ballots.

Officers

- President: Byron Hope (**unopposed**)
- Vice President: Pamela Taylor (**unopposed**)
- Secretary: Phineas Young (**unopposed**)
- Treasurer: Cheryl Crawley(**unopposed**)

Directors

- Grady Covington
- Harry Clarke
- Voiselle (Frenchie) Higgins
- Earl Gatewood
- David (John-John) Johnson

- The ballots were tallied by Mr. Doanld Thigpen and Mr. Charlie Neal.

- President Hope reminded the membership that the renewal season had started. He also advised members that if they were prepared to renew their membership during the meeting, Cheryl Crawley had the forms and would be accepting all money (\$40).
- President Hope thanked the outgoing board for all of their hard work, love, support, and assistance they gave him and the chapter during this last term.

III. Secretary Report

- The minutes of the September 12, 2023, General Membership Meeting were read by Secretary Young and a motion was made by Donald Thigpen to accept the minutes as read and that motion was seconded by Grady Covington. There was a unanimous vote that approved the minutes as read.

IV. Treasury Report

- John Bull provided a Treasurer's Report from September 1- September 30, 2023. The report was read at the meeting and filed. Financial information is available upon request of any active member.
- Additionally, it was reported that we currently have a total of 83 members...74 regular, 2 associate, and 7 honorary.
- John has suggested that we replace the \$1500 that was taken from the savings account for bills. (Board discussion).

Payment Apps: Our Cash App ID is \$BKMD01, when sending money, please note what your transaction is for in the section indicated.

V. Vice President's Report

- President Hope advised club members that there would be a 2nd reading for Mr. Robert Mathis, Jr. He explained that Mr. Mathis had done his 1st reading some time ago, but he was unable to be considered at that time. However, due to some changes in the current honorary memberships; Mr. Mathis could now be considered as an Honorary Maryland-I member.
- Mr. Mathis introduced himself to the group again and gave a brief description of himself and why he would enjoy being a member of the club. Mr. Mathis said he rides a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. Vice President David Dillard advised club members that Mr. Mathis was a

great friend/father figure to him who loves to talk and is overall a great guy.

- President Hope asked Mr. Mathis to step out while the chapter discussed his acceptance. There were no additional questions or discussion and President Hope called for a vote. The vote was unanimous to accept Mr. Robert Mathis, Jr. as an honorary member of Maryland-1. Mr. Mathis was asked to re-enter the room where he was officially welcomed and congratulated on becoming a Blue Knight.
- Vice President Dillard concluded his report by indicating that it was a pleasure and joy to work with all of his fellow club members. He also thanked club members for their support and assistance during his tenure as VP.

VI. Quartermaster Report

- Harry Clarke- The quartermaster indicated that the following items are available for purchase: badges \$55, hats \$10, patches, lapel pins/badges, and belt buckles (\$55) are ready for pick-up.
- Fred Allen advised the chapter he had extra chapter shirts for purchase. Please see him or Harry Clarke for purchase.

VII. Chapter Events

- President Hope spoke about the North Carolina XVI's 14th Annual Officer in Need Ride that was held in Indian Trail, NC on September 30, 2023. The following individuals made this ride and represented Maryland-1: Byron Hope, Fred Allen, David Dillard, Charlie Beard, and Danny Jenkins. The NC-XVI Chapter donates \$1000 to the law enforcement officer being honored. On this occasion, it was for a Waxhaw, NC officer who loss his twin daughters.
- On October 8, 2023, the chapter went to "The Pier" at Solomon's Island to have brunch in lieu of Golden Corral. This event was on our ride calendar but had to be postponed. President Hope thanked Road Captain Eric Mines for a great safe riding experience.
- On October 21, 2023, Blue Knights-VA-XIII is hosting its 24th Annual Toy Run in Danville, VA. to benefit the Danville Social Services Welfare Fund. This event supports children in foster care so they can have a great Christmas. President Hope is requesting as many members as possible to participate in this ride. The Chapter would leave on Friday

the 20th and spend the night near the ride location. The Comfort Inn in Danville is giving a discounted rate for members participating in the Run. Please contact President Hope or Fred Allen for more details.

- On Sunday, November 12, 2023, Delaware-I will be hosting its annual toy run, please mark your calendars.
- On February 9-12, 2024, Delaware-I will be hosting the Winter MDC Conference in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.
- Fred Allen reminded members that Maryland-I has always had a reputation for riding and is well known through the MDC, he suggests that we as a group attend more events so people will know that we are still riding.
- Fred Allen advised club members that the website was up and running. He asked members to log into the website to see if there was anything else they would like to see added. He reminded members that there is a members page, photos of the last rides, a ride section to get information about group riding, a pre-ride checklist, and general membership meeting minutes. Fred anticipates adding a few new features soon to include a market page where you can pay for your items online.

VIII. Election Results for Officers and Directors for Maryland-I

- Mr. Donald Thigpen, our chapter parliamentarian, was called back to the podium by President Hope to provide election results. Mr. Thigpen advised the membership that there were no issues (competition) with the officers regarding the election because everyone was running unopposed. As the chair, he could cast one unanimous ballot upon a motion of a member and 2nd for any unopposed candidates. He then asked the membership did he hear such a motion. Vernon Webb made the motion and it was 2nd by Charlie Neal. The following officers were elected as indicated below

Officers

- President: Byron Hope
- Vice President: Pamela Taylor
- Secretary: Phineas Young
- Treasurer: Cheryl Crawley

- Three positions as directors were voted for by the membership and they are as follows:

Directors

- Grady Covington
- Earl Gatewood
- David (John-John) Johnson

- Mr. Thigpen asked that all of the new officers and directors please stand as he swore everyone in.

IX. Communications

- Allen Lester was not in attendance and no new communication information was presented.

X. Ride Committee

- The ride committee members did not have anything to present to the chapter. However, President Hope advised that he had asked Robert Cox to remain as one of the two ride committee chairpersons. He will be speaking with Henry Seipi to confirm his acceptance. They will be working on the upcoming calendar, and if anyone has any suggestions please reach out to a committee member or President Hope.

XI. Good of the Chapter

- Voiselle (Frenchie) Higgins inquired about members of the chapter who were ill and if we were making contact with them to check on their well-being. He specifically asked about Gene Jackson. President Hope assured him that an inquiry would be made.
- Moses Kelly advised that Gunny was back at home and doing better
- President Hope indicated that Mike Williams has been giving periodic updates on his health via email.
- Ed Martin, President of West Virginia II had a heart attack and is now in rehab and doing better.
- Earl Gatewood also mentioned Rev. Taylor who has some medical issues and has not been able to attend the meetings as he usually does.
- President Hope suggested that the chapter does another care ride before it gets too cold to check on the members who are sick or can not ride anymore.

XII. 50/50 Raffle

- The Chapter collected \$80.00, the numbers were drawn by John Bull, and the winner of \$40.00, was Pamela Taylor. (Ticket # 887634). She has agreed to give her winnings back to the club.

XIII. Attendance

- There was a total of 30 members in attendance at tonight's General Membership Meeting. The list of attendees will be attached and submitted with the meeting minutes.

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting was closed with prayer by Mr. Robert Mathi, Jr.
President Byron Hope adjourned the meeting at 2055 hours.
Minutes submitted by: Phineas Young
Minutes Approved by: