

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

October 21, 2025

I. Call to order

President Byron Hope called to order the General Membership Meeting of the Blue Knights-LEMCMaryland -Chapter I at 1945 hrs. on October 21, 2025, at the FOP Lodge 89.

- Secretary Phineas Young 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. Vice President's Report

- Vice President Taylor welcomed new members Jason Hook and Michael Brown. She provided them with their membership cards and new member information. Vice President Taylor introduced two ladies who were interested in learning more about our organization. Officer Shanay Clark, who serves with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department. She has been with her department for six years and is currently assigned to the Motor Unit. She rides a BMW 1250RT while working, but does not yet own a bike. The second young lady introduced was Keta Better (Keta-B). Ms. Better works for the Postal Police; she became a Postal Police Officer in 2008 and has since transitioned to HR. She learned to ride a motorcycle during the pandemic in 2020. She rides a Harley Davidson Fat Boy and has recently become a member of the Buffalo Soldiers.

III. Secretary Report

- The minutes of the September 9, 2025, General Membership Meeting were read by Secretary Young, and Harry Clarke made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Voiselle Higgins seconded this motion. A unanimous vote approved the minutes as read.

IV. Treasury Report

Treasurer Crawley provided the Treasurer's Report for September 2025. The report was filed as read. Financial information is available upon request to any active member.

Payment Apps: Our Cash App ID is \$BKMD01. When sending money, please note the purpose of your transaction in the designated section.

V. Elections Officers and Directors for Maryland-I

- Mr. Donald Thigpen, our chapter parliamentarian, presided over the chapter elections. All candidates ran unopposed, and after receiving a motion to cast one unanimous ballot for the slate as read below. John Bull made the motion, and Grady Covington seconded it. Mr. Thigpen proceeded to swear in the 2025-2026 officers and directors of Maryland-I.

Officers

- President: Voiselle "Frenchie" Higgins
- Vice President: Pamela Taylor
- Secretary: Phineas Young
- Treasurer: John Bull

Directors

- Earl Gatewood
- Harry Clarke
- Cheryl Crawley

VI. President's Report

- President Hope spoke about the ride to Luray Caverns and the accident involving WW Johnson and his wife, Cynthia. He briefly explained what had occurred and reiterated the importance of safety when riding. President Hope also provided an update on their conditions. WW suffered from a broken right arm, and he was released. Cynthia has a fracture of some sort and requires surgery. She is currently in UVA Hospital in Charlottesville, VA.
- Voiselle Higgins suggested that when we go on rides, we need emergency contact information and medical information with us on the ride. He created something that can be stored in a secure location on your bike if

needed. John Bull also indicated that there are commercial kits available for purchase that can secure that sort of information.

- President Hope reminded members that it was renewal time and encouraged everyone to complete their renewals early. He also asked the members to fill out the renewal form to ensure that all of their information was accurate.
- President Hope has begun working on the chapter's calendar. He asked that members provide input on any rides that they would like to take this upcoming season.
- The next meeting will be on November 18, 2025, and has been moved back a week due to Veterans Day and the lodge being closed.
- President Hope informed the membership that the 2026 Spring Mason Dixon Conference will be held in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Further details are forthcoming.
- The 2026 Blue Knights International Conference will be held from July 19 to 25, 2026, in Calgary, Canada, and is being hosted by Alberta-V. More information is forthcoming.
- The crab feast date is Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, Maryland. The price per ticket for adults is \$100, and for children twelve and under, it is \$55.
- The host hotel for the event is the Holiday Inn in Greenbelt, MD, next to Martin's Crosswind. Hotel rates \$119.00
- President Hope provided a heartfelt thank you to the chapter for allowing him to serve as the president of Maryland-I for the last three years.

VII. Quartermaster Report

- Harry Clarke - The quartermaster has hats, badges, belt buckles, pins, and riding shirts of all sizes for sale. You can pay for these items on the Maryland-I website and contact Harry to arrange the pick-up/delivery. It should be noted that the chapter ordered new riding shirts.

VIII. Past Chapter Events

- Five members attended the Mid-Atlantic Rodeo event.
- There were seven bikes for the Luray Caverns ride.

- At the Delaware-I Toy Run, we won the award for best-represented chapter and longest distance for a female rider.

IX. Upcoming Chapter Events

- There are no upcoming events at this time.

X. Safety Report

- Eric Mines spoke to the group about tires. He explained that the day before the Wildwood, NJ ride, he was doing his routine bike check and was going to top off his tank when he felt something unusual as he started to ride. Eric turned around and went back to his where he discovered that he had a knot in the back tire as big as his hand. The tire had good tread but had developed dry rot. The tire date was 2016. After doing some research, he discovered that Dunlap tires do not recommend using/keeping a motorcycle for more than six to ten years. The wide span date is due to ideal conditioning and the use of the tires during that span of time (keeping the bike in a climate-controlled location off the ground during winter, checking tire pressures regularly, etc.). Eric suggested that you check the age of your tires and explained how you can find that information, which is located on the sidewall of the tire.

XI. Communications

- The communications officer was not present and had no information to present at the meeting.

XII. Ride Committee

- The ride committee members were absent and provided no information to be presented at the meeting.

XIII. Good of the Chapter

- There was no new information for the good of the chapter.

XIV. 50/50 Raffle

- There was no 50/50 raffle at tonight's meeting.

XV. Attendance

- A total of 21 members attended tonight's General Membership Meeting. The list of attendees will be attached and submitted with the meeting minutes.

XVI. Adjournment

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Secretary Phineas Young
President Byron Hope adjourned the meeting at 2135 hours.
Minutes submitted by: Phineas Young