

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

December 12, 2023

**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 December 12, 2023, at the FOP Lodge 89.

- Bother Robert Mathis 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 spoke with members regarding membership. Specifically, she talked about doing a root cause analysis to see why people have failed to renew their membership over the past few years. How can we make ourselves more attractive to retain and recruit members? VP Taylor also asked members to provide input on the kinds of events they are interested in participating in.

**III. Secretary Report**

- The minutes of the November 14, 2023, General Membership Meeting were read by Secretary Young, and a motion was made by Eric Mines to accept the minutes as read, and that motion was seconded by Russell Jackson. There was a unanimous vote that approved the minutes as read.

**IV. Treasury Report**

- Cheryl Crawley provided a Treasurer's Report from November 1- November 30, 2023. The report was filed as read. Financial information is available upon request of any active member.
- Cheryl is currently collecting membership dues. \$40

- Eric asked the Board to consider placing some of the savings in a CD that would generate a better return on our interest.

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

## **V. Quartermaster Report**

- Harry Clarke- The quartermaster indicated that the following items are available for purchase: one badge, patches, lapel pins/badges, and belt buckles. He has the pre-ordered tee shirts for pick-up and extra tee shirts for sale.

## **VI. Chapter Events**

- On Sunday, December 3, 2023, chapter members attended St. Ann's Christmas Season Open House and Farewell Party to Sister Mary Bater.
- On Saturday, December 9, 2023, chapter members participated in a "Care Ride," where we delivered Gunny Best, a new Marine Corps Flag. We responded to Raman Heights' home, presenting him with a certificate of appreciation for allowing us to use his grill for the St. Ann's event for the past several years. We also visited with Hugh Valentine. He told stories, shared memories, and offered to have discussions with club leaders on how to recruit and retain members.
- The next BOD meeting will be January 2, 2024, and the Next General Membership meeting will be January 9, 2024.
- On February 9-12, 2024, Delaware-I will host the Winter MDC Conference in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

## **VII. Communications**

- Allen Lester was not present for the meeting and did not provide any new information for the chapter.

## **VIII. Ride Committee**

- President Hope advised the membership that a draft copy of the 2024 ride calendar is forthcoming, and he asked again for anyone having rides or events that they would like included on the calendar to please let him know ASAP.

## **IX. Good of the Chapter**

- Russell Jackson inquired whether the BOD had a list or needed assistance contacting members who had not renewed. President Hope advised him that the BOD was in the process of doing that now but encouraged all members, when talking to other members, to inquire whether they've renewed and advise them if they need assistance; please reach out to him [President Hope].
- President Hope discussed possibly doing another raffle, and several ideas were discussed regarding what would be raffled (cruise, dinner for (2) on spirit of Washington cruise, weapon, TV, motorcycle, or money). The membership will explore some of the suggestions but settled on raffling money. The possible drawing date for the raffle will be April 9, 2024. (1<sup>st</sup> Place Prize \$2,500, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Prize \$1,000, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Prize \$500... each ticket will cost \$20.
- Vice President Taylor recognized member Charlie Neal for receiving the "Chris Shenkel Broadcasting Award," an annual award given to distinctive individuals in broadcasting with ties to universities. We found out from Charlie that he was the 1st African American ever to receive this honor. We also wished Charlie a Happy Belated Birthday.
- The question was raised about what if any, plans we have regarding a Maryland I Crab Feast. President Hope indicated that the chapter does not have plans to do a crab feast this year.

## **X. 50/50 Raffle**

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

## **XI. Attendance**

- There was a total of 26 members in attendance at tonight's General Membership Meeting. The list of attendees will be attached and submitted with the meeting minutes.

## **XII. Adjournment**

The meeting was closed with prayer by Reverend Bernard Taylor  
President Byron Hope adjourned the meeting at 2056 hours.  
Minutes submitted by: Phineas Young