

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

September 12, 2023

I. Call to order

President Byron Hope called to order the General Membership Meeting of the Blue Knights-LEMCMaryland -Chapter 1, at 1941 hrs. on September 12, 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

- President Hope introduced John and Wendy Fister to the chapter. Wendy was someone he met while working at MPD and they have remained friends over the years. She was instrumental in getting Byron to move forward with the raffle and ensured that it would be successful. President Hope has asked her to draw the winning ticket for the “BK-MD1 Television Raffle.”
- President Hope thanked members for their participation in making the raffle successful. He also gave a special thanks for those members who sold more tickets than was asked (Joe Akers, Haywood Isler). President Hope advised the chapter that the total collected for raffle sales was \$6,150.00.
- Mrs. Wendy Fister drew the winning ticket that belonged to Ms. Maiya Foutunat, the daughter of our chapter member Louis Foutunat. Maiya was called and congratulated by President Hope and the Maryland-1 family. She was quite surprised and happy about being the winner.
- Ride Shirts- Fred has designed some ride shirts, everyone should have received an email with a link to order. The cost is approximately \$39, with tax. We must purchase a certain amount before we can place the order. Please reach out to Fred or Byron if you have any questions or would like to purchase a shirt and need assistance with a computer.

- The Mason Dixon Conference has scholarship money available, you are encouraged to apply for yourself or an immediate family member.

III. Secretary Report

- The secretary's report, because of technical difficulties, was not read at this meeting. A copy will be posted on the website for viewing purposes and we will vote at the next meeting to accept the report as submitted.

IV. Treasury Report

- John Bull provided a Treasurer's Report from August 1- August 31, 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.

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

- Vice President Dillard could not make the meeting; however, we have a 2nd Reading tonight.
- Mr. Dwayne Nichols, who is a police officer for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors (2 years), introduced himself again to the chapter. He advised the chapter that he rides a Honda Rebel 1100, and he lives in Germantown, Maryland. Dwayne has been riding for 5 months.
- President Hope asked Dwayne to step out while the chapter discussed his acceptance. There was no additional questions or discussion and President Hope called for a vote. All members were in favor except for one member that abstained to vote Mr. Dwayne Nichols in as a member of Maryland-1. Dwayne was asked to re-enter the room where he was officially welcomed and congratulated on becoming a Blue Knight.

VI. Mason Dixon Conference Updates (Vice Chairman Freddy Allen)

- Fred advised the chapter that the MDC currently has 59 chapters and 1,745 members and is doing well. There were some changes made regarding the MDC executive board. The MDC is going to pay for their attendance at on the MDC Conferences as a thank you for all that they do.

- He announced that Secretary Phineas Young was the new Maryland State Representative, and that North Carolina was appointed a new state representative after the passing of Bud Overby. (Mr. Mike Lewis)
- Fred told the members that if they had any questions, concerns, recommendations, etc. for the MDC, please contact him or Phineas, Maryland State Representative.
- The MDC Winter Conference will be hosted by Delaware I in February 2024, flyers will be posted to the website. He is asking for the chapter's participation.

VII. International Report

- John advised that the 50th Anniversary Committee decided to do a drawing for conference registration fees every month until March 2024. You pay your registration fee, and your name will be entered into a drawing and each month leading up to the conference a name will be drawn from the pre-registered members, so the earlier you register the more chances you have to win.
- Payments for the conference can be made by PayPal, cash app, or check or money order that can be mailed directly to John Bull.
- The international office needs repair, the actual business office has been moved downstairs (remodeled) and they will begin working on the museum that will be located upstairs. Because the building is so old, they are looking at the possibility of replacing the building.
- John has patches for the International Convention, they are on sale for \$5.00.

VIII. Quartermaster Report

- The quartermaster indicated that we have new badges in, and he is taking orders for the belt buckles. The belt buckle can be pre-ordered. Please see Harry to order.

IX. Chapter Events

- President Hope thanked everyone who participated in the St. Ann's Fun Day. He also read a letter from St. Ann's expressing their appreciation for our attendance and donation.

- President Hope thanked the members who attended the MDC Fall Conference in Culpeper, Virginia. He also gave a special thank you to Eric Mines who took us to the “Wood Grill” after the conference meeting for lunch. A definite recommendation for the ride calendar.
- President Hope also thanked everyone who came out to Breakfast at Golden Corral and dealing with the last-minute changes. The plan is to re-schedule the Solomon Island breakfast to another day soon.
- The Officer Down ride that was scheduled for September 23, 2023, has been re-scheduled for October 22, 2023, and is virtual. If you need additional details, contact President Hope.
- On September 30, 2023, North Carolina XVI is having their 14th Annual Officer in Need Ride. Maryland-I is looking to take the group down for the ride. Please let President Hope know if you’re interested.
- On August 26, 2023, we had (2) members participate as judges in the Mid-Atlantic Police Rodeo.
- On August 27, 2023, we had (5) members make the BK-New Jersey-V boardwalk run in Wildwood, New Jersey.
- On October 8, 2023, is the next scheduled chapter breakfast.
- On November 12, 2023, Delaware-I will be hosting their 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.

X. Nominations for Officers and Directors for Maryland-I

- Mr. Donald Thigpen, our chapter parliamentarian, presided over the nominations for the chapter elections. He opened the floor for nominations to the following positions:

Officers

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

Directors

- Grady Covington
 - Harry Clarke
 - Voiselle (Frenchie) Higgins
 - Earl Gatewood
 - David (John-John) Johnson
- The officers' positions were unopposed. The elections for directors positions will be held at the October General Membership Meeting.

XI. Communications

- Allen Lester did not have anything to present to the chapter.

XII. Ride Committee

- The ride committee members did not have anything to present to the chapter.

XIII. Good of the Chapter

- Eric Mines thanked the chapter for all the cards, calls, text messages and overall support that he has received from the chapter. He is very grateful and appreciative.

XIV. 50/50 Raffle

- The Chapter collected \$67.00, the numbers were drawn by Charlie Neal and the winner of \$33.50, was Fred Allen. (Ticket # 887609).

XV. 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.

XVI. Adjournment

The meeting was closed with prayer by Waldo "WW" Johnson
President Byron Hope adjourned the meeting at 2050 hours.
Minutes submitted by: Phineas Young
Minutes Approved by: