

**BLUE KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MOTORCYCLE CLUB, INC.
MARYLAND CHAPTER I, INC**

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1.

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation the name of this organization shall be Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Maryland Chapter No. I, Incorporated, hereinafter referred to as the Chapter.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section 1.

There shall be four membership classifications:

1. Regular membership
2. Associate membership
3. Honorary membership
4. Special Honorary Membership - Chapter Chaplain

Section 2.

The Chapter shall adhere to the membership criteria established in Article 6, Sections 1-5, of the Constitution/Articles of Incorporation, and Article II, Sections 2.01 - 2.04.1 of the Bylaws of the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Incorporated, hereinafter referred to as "International." Criteria used shall be the criteria in effect at the time the decision regarding membership is made by any member of the Chapter.

Section 3.

Regular, Associate, Honorary and Special Honorary members in good standing shall have the right to vote at any club function. The standing of a member shall be determined by the club officer presiding at any time and shall be subject to final approval by members present when the ruling of the presiding officer is questioned.

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ARTICLE III

Dues

Section 1.

Each new Regular, Associate, Honorary or Special Honorary member shall be assessed a first-year membership and initiation fee in an amount specified by the International. This amount shall be collected by the treasurer and forwarded to the International for the following:

1. Membership Card
2. Decal
3. Patch
4. Pin

Section 2.

Each year thereafter members shall pay dues in the amount specified by the International. This amount shall be collected by the treasurer and forwarded to the International. In addition to the International dues, each member shall pay annual dues in an amount specified by the Chapter, which shall be deposited in its treasury. These dues are hereinafter referred to as "Chapter Dues." All dues shall be paid on or before November 30th of each year.

Section 3.

The fiscal year for the chapter shall begin on November 1st and end on October 31st of each year.

Section 4.

Membership dues shall be based upon the following guidelines provided by Blue Knights International Office:

For NEW members joining during the year, the US dollar dues are as follows (*):

\$25.00: January, February, March

\$20.00: April, May, June

\$15.00: July, August, September

\$25.00: October, November, December (For the following year)

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Late renewals will be accepted until September 30th. After that, members will have to fill out NEW member applications as follows (*)

\$30.00: January, February, March

\$25.00: April, May, June

\$20.00: July, August, September

Members at Large (MAL) annual renewal fee: **\$25.00**

Administration fee for Chapter Transfers: **\$3.00**

() This fee DOES NOT include the \$10.00 Chapter contribution fee. This must be added to all dues indicated.*

ARTICLE IV

Officers

Section 1.

Officers

The officers of the Chapter shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Nomination for these officers shall be held in September of each year. The elections will be held in October of each year, with the new officers taking office at the first meeting in November.

- a. All officers elected shall be allowed to serve as many terms as elected, except for the office of the President. The President shall be limited to two (2) consecutive terms.

Section 2.

Board of Directors

The business and property of the Chapter shall be controlled by the Board of Directors which shall be elected annually. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate Past President, as well as three (3) additional directors. If the Secretary and Treasurer are held as one office, four (4) additional directors shall be elected.

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Section 3.

Executive Committee

The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall comprise the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. The committee shall conduct Chapter business of the Board of Directors whenever the full Board is not in session and shall have such duties as may be from time to time conferred upon it by the board.

Section 4.

Any vacancy in an elective office may be filled by the Executive Committee at any meeting, but only for the remainder of the term so vacated.

Section 5.

The President or his/her designees appointed from the Executive Committee shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter. The president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except for the By-Laws and Nominating Committee. The President shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie vote.

- a. The President or designee will have his/her registration paid from Chapter funds to attend the Annual Meeting in July, as well as registration for all other Conference meetings which he/she is required to attend.

Section 6.

The Vice-President shall, in the event of death, prolonged absence, or incapacity of the President, perform all the duties of that office until such as time as the Executive Committee may declare a vacancy thereof. In addition, the Vice-President will assist the Secretary and Treasurer as needed.

Section 7.

The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Chapter and shall keep accurate records of all business transacted at such meeting. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the membership of the Chapter. He/She shall also give adequate notice to all members in advance of any special meeting of the Chapter (Article VII, Section 2).

Section 8.

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all Chapter funds. He/She shall receive all Chapter funds, depositing same in the name of the Chapter in such Bank or Trust Company as designated by the Executive Board, and keep accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, and collect all yearly dues.

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The Treasurer shall have the authority to make disbursements of Chapter funds in the amount of two hundred-fifty dollars (\$250.00) with the President's approval. The Treasurer shall make a full report of the financial status of the Chapter upon request, at any meeting of the Executive Committee and at all general membership meetings.

Section 9.

In the absence of any officer from a meeting, at which his/her presence is necessary for an orderly conduct of the business thereof, to include Parliamentarian, the presiding officer may appoint a temporary substitute thereof.

ARTICLE V

Support Staff

Section 1.

Quartermaster

There shall be a Quartermaster appointed by the Executive Board. He/She shall be responsible for all Club merchandise. All proceeds from merchandise sales shall be turned over to the Treasurer at each monthly meeting. A Property Office shall serve as an assistant to the Quartermaster with duties commissary.

Section 2.

Road Captains

Four (4) Road Captains shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to serve at their discretion. When on a sanctioned run, all members shall be subject to the direction of the Road Captain. He/She shall have the authority to direct, control and take disciplinary action against any member whose misconduct deems such action necessary.

- a. Disciplinary action by a Road Captain shall be limited to a maximum penalty of suspension from that function.
- b. The Road Captain shall report any misconduct in writing to the President within seven (7) days following said function/occurrence.
- c. The President shall review, report and forward same to the Ethics and Membership Committee with any recommendations or remarks that he/she sees fit to include.
- d. The Road Captain shall designate the Tail Gunner for each event/run.

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Section 3.

Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Parliamentarian shall ensure that all business is conducted in an orderly fashion using Roberts Rule of Order as a guideline. He/She shall make the final decision on all questions or Parliamentary procedure.

ARTICLE VI

Committees

Section 1.

The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be the Executive Committee of the Chapter and shall have such duties and powers as may be from time-to-time conferred upon by the Chapter.

Section 2.

The Executive Committee may, from time-to-time, appoint such other committees as it may deem necessary or advisable for carrying out the purpose and work of the Chapter, and delegate to such committees such authority and powers as it may see fit to grant within the limits of its own authority. The membership of such committee shall be limited to members in good standing and the tenure of each committee shall be fixed by the Executive Committee.

Section 3.

Standing committees shall be appointed yearly by the Executive Board and shall consist of the following:

- a. Bike Inspection Safety Committee
 1. Shall assure that all member's motorcycles are in a safe and reasonable operating condition. This inspection shall begin on the first run of the season and continue throughout the year. This committee shall be chaired by one of the Road Captains.

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- b. Ethics/Membership Committee
 - 1. This committee shall review all cases of alleged misconduct by any member of this Chapter and shall recommend to the general memberships such action as may be deemed necessary.
- c. Run Committee
 - 1. Shall be responsible for the scheduling of all runs for the year.
- d. By-Laws Committee
 - 1. Shall periodically review these Bylaws and present revisions to the membership when needed.
- e. Ways and Means Committee
 - 1. Shall be responsible for developing and administering Chapter fund raising and public relations campaigns and coordinating the Chapter hospitality activities.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

Section 1.

The monthly meeting of the members of the Chapter shall be held at a pre-determined location and due notice will be given to all members of this location in either the monthly newsletter, webpage, or other electronic medium (i.e., Call-Em All, hotline, etc.). Meetings will be held on the second (2nd) Monday of each month at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise notified.

Section 2.

A special meeting may be called by the Executive Committee provided that the membership is notified at least seven (7) days prior to such meeting.

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Section 3.

There shall be no voting by proxy at any meeting of the Chapter. Only Regular, Associate, Honorary, and Special Honorary members in good standing, as certified by the Ethics and Membership Committee, shall be allowed to vote. Invited guests will be allowed to take part in the discussion on matters during the meeting. So long as the decorum thereof is not unduly disturbed. Chapter meetings will be restricted to family members and invited guests.

Section 4.

At all meetings of the Chapter, it being established that there is a quorum present as herein set forth a majority of the votes cast on any matter before the meeting shall rule. A quorum shall consist of ten (10) voting members.

Section 5.

Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of any meeting inconsistent with the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII

Fundraising

Section 1.

Participating in any fundraising program headed by International or any individual club must be approved by two-thirds vote of the general membership present at the Chapter meeting when the program is presented. Notice must be given no less than seven (7) days prior to this meeting that the program will be voted on.

ARTICLE IX

RULES OF CONDUCT

Section 1.

No member shall conduct him or herself in such a manner so as to reflect unfavorably upon the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.

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ARTICLE X**

Uniforms

Section 1.

To maintain uniformity and consistency, as well as exude the highest level of professional appearance with Chapter personnel, all new members are expected to purchase the complete uniform as outlined below within six (6) months of joining, as outlined within Section 2.

Section 2.

The official formal dress uniform for the Maryland I Chapter, shall consist of:

- Dark blue beret adorned with the International pin
- Long sleeve, medium blue shirt (color # 15W5435). The shirt will display the International patch on the left sleeve at the shoulder and the Maryland crest on the right sleeve at the shoulder (see attachment).
- Maryland Chapter pins shall adorn the collar.
- A white ascot will dress the neck.
- A gold braid (or lanyard) shall be worn over the left shoulder. Please note that this item shall not have the “hanging tassel,” or silver/gold colored ornament affixed to it.
- A nametag will be worn on the right front side of the shirt. The nametag will be gold in color with black lettering.
- A small gold colored badge with the words “Blue Knights” will be worn on the front left side of the shirt. The lettering on this badge will be blue in color.
- White gloves shall be a part of the uniform
- Trousers shall be dark blue in color (color # HOR759), with a light blue stripe on each leg.
- Belts will be black in color with a brass buckle of a members choosing but must be in conformity with Article IX, Section 1.

ARTICLE XI

Death of a Member

Section 1.

Upon learning of the death of a member of this Chapter, members shall make notification to the President of Maryland I. Should he/she be unavailable, notification shall be made to the Chapter Vice President.

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Once this notification is made, the President shall ensure that the member's name is communicated with Chapter members and also included in Heaven One.

Section 2.

In the event of a loss or injury of a Chapter member, spouse, parent or child, the Chapter will provide a monetary contribution in the following amount to an extent that the Chapter treasury is healthy:

DEATH

Member: \$250.00

Spouse: \$200.00

Child: \$100.00

INJURY (*)

Member: \$100.00

Spouse: \$50.00

Child: \$25.00

(*) Gifts such as floral or fruit baskets can be made in lieu of monetary donations provided that the total amount of the gift does not exceed the allotted amount indicated.

Section 3.

Upon the death of an active member of the Maryland – I Chapter, the spouse of said member will be permitted to attend any Chapter events, such as Maldonado Night and Crab Feast, at no cost for registration, provided that the cost does not exceed one hundred (\$100.00) dollars.

ARTICLE XII

Amendments

Section 1.

These Bylaws may be repealed or amended at any meeting of the members of the Chapter or by a two-thirds vote of those members who are present and eligible to vote, provided that notice of the proposed action setting forth the substance thereof was given to all members with the call of the meeting.

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Section 2.

Whenever the Executive Committee or any seven (7) or more Regular, Associate, Honorary or Special Honorary members of the Chapter recommend, in writing, that the Bylaws be amended, the President shall direct the Secretary to send out notice of the proposed action.

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References

Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc. (2018, July 1). Retrieved from Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc: <https://blueknights.org/about.htm>

Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc Maryland Chapter I. (n.d.). *BYLAWS*. Upper Marlboro, Maryland, United States: Maryland Chapter I.

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Robert, H. M. (2018, July 1). <https://www.constitution.org>. Retrieved from Constitution. org: <https://robertsrules.org/robertsrules.pdf>

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nora Coaxum

Haywood Isler

Moses Kelly

Eric Mines

Paul Sinclair

Byron Hope

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