



Proud Host of the
Spring 2023 Southern Regional Conference
Thursday, April 27th thru Sunday, April 30th



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Brother and Sister Knights

Brother and Sister Knights welcome to our first edition of the Blue knights FL XVIII newsletter.

Our Brother and Webmaster / Editor Domenic Ceccanecchio came up with this idea and the board agreed it was a great idea for our members and our Facebook group. Domenic has a few more ideas up his sleeve and I know they will be great and welcomed by our membership.

This news letter will be emailed to every member. It will be available on our public access website with all back issues. We will also post the newsletter on our closed group Facebook page that currently has 463 members. We will have a few hard copies for the monthly meeting and for any members who request one delivered we will get it to you. We are trying to keep the overhead down and hopefully we can use this platform to generate some income for the chapter in the future with chapter sales and hopefully selling block advertising to our local support business.

If you have items or services for sale please submit an email to Domenic or myself with a clear description of the items, clear photos if you like. Please add your contact information. If you have a business, give us a business card and it can be posted. This newsletter is for you please use it. 463 people and growing world wide will see what you are selling it's a great opportunity for our members and our Facebook community of Blue Knights and friends to network.

We would like jokes and stories (clean please.) We will be soliciting you for your birthday, Spouses birthday, Anniversary or anything special you would like to add.

We will have a featured Knight quarterly and possibly take all four and vote for the Knight of the year at our Christmas / Holiday party TBD. We will have a sick and distressed section, so as always let us know if you know someone who needs to be on the list or if you need it yourself.

I'm excited for the opportunities this might bring the chapter and very thankful Domenic is doing this for us all, thank you Brother Dom!

Ride with Pride
Patrick Gibbons
President, FLXVIII



September Ride and Activity Schedule

BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNERS WILL TAKE PLACE RAIN OR SHINE. RIDES ARE SUBJECT TO MOTHER NATURE'S APPROVAL.

SATURDAY 9/3 — BREAKFAST AT DER DUTCHMAN 9:00 AM
3713 BAHIA VISTA ST SARASOTA. LOCAL RIDE AFTER BREAKFAST.

TUESDAY 9/6 — MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00 PM
FOP LODGE #3 3600 CIRCUS BLVD SARASOTA. COME OUT FOR DINNER OR A DRINK 5:30 PM AT THE HOT SANDS TIKI BAR ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE LODGE AT THE SHRINE.

SATURDAY 9/10 — WORK CREW SETUP FOR THE MANASOTA 9/11 RIDE. TIMES TO BE DETERMINED.

SUNDAY 9/11 — THE 16TH ANNUAL MANASOTA 9/11 MEMORIAL RIDE. VOLUNTEERS REPORT TO THE FOP #3 HALL AT 7:30 AM FOR SETUP. ALL HANDS ON DECK. IF YOU ARE JUST RIDING REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:30 AM AND THE RIDE DEPARTS AT 10:30 AM.

THURSDAY 9/15 — 11:00 AM LUNCH AT MISSION BBQ.
5231 UNIVERSITY PKWY SRQ

FRIDAY 9/23 — Fall 2022 SRC President's Meeting,
TITUSVILLE FL. CHECK WITH PRESIDENT GIBBONS FOR DEPARTURE TIMES.

SATURDAY 9/24 — Fall 2022 SRC President's Meeting,
TITUSVILLE FL

SUNDAY 9/25 — SRC TITUSVILLE FL. RIDE HOME WITH A

Manasota 9/11 Memorial Ride

SUNAY SEPTEMBER 11TH

Registration Starts at 8:30AM
Ride departs from the FOP Lodge #3
3600 Circus Blvd at 10:30 AM
Flag Bikes receive preference in the line up
Live Music by Whiskey Blind Band



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Blue Knights® International
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.



From International Vice President Rory MacConnell

International Convention 2023

Dates: July 16 - July 21, 2023

Chapter: PA V - Harrisburg, PA

Convention Information: The web site for the 2023 event has been activated for Blue Knights around the world.

Visit the web site at www.BKI2023International.com

Recruitment and retention is all members job.... constantly wear you colors and promote the organization any chance you have.

Due Diligance

A by-laws committee has been formed to ensure that we are in compliance with Blue Knight International standards.

The committee consists of John Emrick, Dom Ceccanecchio, Jimmy Kirkpatrick, Jim Thomas and Patrick Gibbons. Results of the committees findings will be presented to the membership for approval.

SRC 2023 SPRING CONFERENCE UPDATE

The votes are in for the 2023 Spring Venice SRC and the Pirates theme won the vote with 50's a very close second. The conference chairmen are Rory Mac Connell and President Patrick Gibbons.

We still need members to volunteer some time and join one of the committees listed below. PLEASE contact one of the below chairpersons:

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chairman --- John Emrick Treasurer (mddre3077@aol.com)

BANQUET / BBQ COMMITTEE: Chairman Tom Yacca (rotocycle44@yahoo.com)

OPERATIONS: Paul Fieber (acegolf3@msn.com)

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: Chairman -- Jim Thomas (jthomas@berlinwall.us)

SOCIAL COMMITTEE – GAME NIGHT THURSDAY: Chairmen Rory Mac Connell (mac71037@verizon.net)

CAPPUCCINO / ESPRESSO TRAILER EVENINGS - Jack Ovadia (jbvtx1300@gmail.com)

THEME DECORATIONS BANQUET / SOCIAL AREAS: Chairwomen Lydia Grotz (bgrotz2@yahoo.com)

RIDE COMMITTEE: Chairman Vinny Spadaro (vinnie189@verizon.net)

AUCTION / CHAPTER SALES: Chairman Tim Van Shultz / Jim Ryan (jryanretired@aol.com)



Treasurers Report

Fellow Knights

As of August 2nd, 2022, I am happy to report that our finances are sound and all International and State regulatory requirements have been satisfied for the fiscal year.



John Emerick
Chapter Treasurer



OUR PLEDGE

"AS A BLUE KNIGHT I PLEDGE TO ACT WITH HONOR AND PRIDE TO PROMOTE MOTORCYCLING AND MOTORCYCLE SAFETY BY BEING AN EXAMPLE OF THE SAFE USE, OPERATION AND ENJOYMENT OF MOTORCYCLES. I WILL WORK AT ALL TIMES TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT MOTORCYCLING COMMUNITY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE FRATERNAL SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS GUIDE ME IN RELATING TO OTHER BLUE KNIGHTS"

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Chapter Executive Board

President ... Patrick Gibbons
Vice President TBD
Treasurer John Emrick
Secretary James Ryan

Board of Directors

Domenic Ceccanecchio / Webmaster
Vincent Spadaro
Thomas Post / Sergeant at Arms

Operations

Timothy Van Schultz / Quartermaster
James Kirkpatrick / Safety Officer

James Kirkpatrick / Chaplin
Rory MacConnell / Past President



THE SAFETY ZONE

GROUP RIDING IS GREAT FUN AND GETS PEOPLE TO NOTICE OUR GROUP BUT FORMATION RIDING ALSO PRESENTS IT'S OWN SET OF CHALLENGES. TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS SAFE AND ENJOYING THE RIDE, I AM WORKING ON A ROAD CAPTAIN PROGRAM IN WHICH EVERYONE IN THE CHAPTER CAN PARTICIPATE. EVEN IF YOU HAVE NO DESIRE IN BEING A ROAD CAPTAIN YOU SHOULD CONSIDER TAKING THIS CLASS. THE SKILLS AND INFORMATION WILL NOT ONLY HELP YOU BECOME A BETTER RIDER BUT A SAFE RIDER WHEN WE HAVE GROUP RIDES. EVEN THE MOST EXPERIENCED RIDER CAN LEARN SOMETHING OR HELP AND SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH THE CHAPTER. I HAVE ASSEMBLED A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION AND AM PREPARING A CHAPTER HANDBOOK AS WELL AS A POWER-POINT PRESENTATION FOR PROSPECTIVE ROAD CAPTAINS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING THIS CLASS PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

JIM KIRKPATRICK

VP Message ..

Brother and Sister Knights,

It is with regret that due to my current health status along with my commitment at the international level I must resign from my position as Vice president of BK FLXVIII. I will remain Chairman of the conference committee. Thank you for the support you have given me. I know we have members ready to come on board and assist in the operation of the chapter. I appreciate your understanding.

Respectfully

Rory MacConnell



"How rude of me. Our first date and I've talked about my bike all night. I haven't given you a chance to talk about my bike."



FROM THE WEB
WWW.BLUEKNIGHTSFLXVIII.COM

CHECKOUT ALL THE NEW STUFF ON YOUR WEBSITE!!

- SRC 2023 SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
- THE NEW CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
- ACCESS TO OUR **facebook** PAGE FROM OUR WEBSITE
- OUR BI-LAWS AND ROBERTS RULES ARE COMING SOON IN OUR MEMBERS ONLY SECTION

Dom Ceccanecchio, Webmaster



BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

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The CHAPLINS Corner...



Dear Fellow Blue Knights,

First and foremost, I am extremely blessed to have the opportunity to serve our members as the Chaplain of Florida Chapter XVIII

Chaplain Credentials:

As a lifelong Christian, I made the choice to study through several ministries to train as a chaplain. The Chaplain Ministry of Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and the Chaplain Fellowship Ministries. I am endorsed and ordained as a chaplain and also working towards a Master's Degree in Theological Studies. My home church is Calvary Chapel – Sarasota.

Food for Thought:

Ephesians 6:11 Teaches us to "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

The Law Enforcement Officer, a special breed who places others needs above their own, a courageous person who risk his/her life to served others; a person that witnessed the worst that society can do to each other and still continue to serve. Yes, a law enforcement officer is a special breed of person that serves God's people! The Gospel of Matthew, specifically Matthew 5:9 "*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God*". The scriptures are clear that even God sees that peace does not come naturally, or easy, As law enforcement officers you are the peacemakers doing the work of the Lord. s

However, this all comes with a price, as long exposure to society atrocities can have adverse effects on our emotional wellbeing. As good Christians, family members and friends it becomes our duty to be there for each other spiritually, emotional and lovingly. Simply just being a good listener that comforts others can save a life and change a person.

Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.

Jim Kirkpatrick

Letters to the President . . .

Tell us about your birthdays, anniversary, or any special event you would like to share. And we are always interested in some good jokes and stories (clean please).

We need and want your input



Safety Tip.....from your Safety Officer **Jim Kirkpatrick**

As we approach the peak season for winter visitors to our beautiful beaches. I want to remind our members of the additional hazards to the roads of Sarasota/ Manatee Counties.

Pre-Pandemic, 2019 the average visitors numbers for both counties was near 1.2 million visitors. We have all seen what that brings, the vehicle that cuts across three lanes to get to a restaurant, the big city folks that never drive, but decided to rent a car. For the motorcyclist the dangers increase exponentially as the roads fill with those folks not knowing the area.

- Don't assume your clear because you have the right away!
- Avoid the busy main roads if you can.
- More traffic at the beaches equals more sand on the roads, sand is not your friend.

Basically, be more vigilant then you would normally be!

Let's be safe and keep the rubber on the road!



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Join us in welcoming our newest member Lauro Perez. Lauro comes to us from New York where he retired as a lieutenant in the NYPD having served for 24 years in various capacities. He is now a full time resident here in Osprey, FL.



Featured Knight

RICK DEAL

15 YEARS A KNIGHT

2 YEARS CHAPTER SECRETARY

4 YEARS CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT

2 YEARS CHAPTER PRESIDENT



FROM SECRETARY RYAN'S YS DESK

As an original member of Maine 1. I worked and socialized with the Blue Knight Founding Fathers. The concept for the Blue Knights originated in a restaurant in Brewer, Maine called the "White Elephant". In the early morning on Friday and Saturday nights, local law enforcement would meet there before ending their shifts. Many rode their motorcycles on their time off and several of them decided to create a club. Eddie Gallant, Mike Hall, Bill Robinson, and Doug Miner were four of them.

Eddie Gallant (Bangor PD) was on our law enforcement softball team. He did not drink so on all of our road trips he was the designated driver. Bill Robinson (Maine State Police) was a practical joker, always looking for a way to pull a prank. Mike Hall (Brewer PD) was a ladies' man and was always there when you needed help. Doug Miner (Maine Warden Service) was the quite one. I knew Chuck Shuman (Brewer PD), Joel Rudman, Wayne Labree and Chuck Gisler but not as close.

When they formed the Blue Knights their intent was to allow all law enforcement agencies to bond in brotherhood and sisterhood through riding on motorcycles. Rank, departments or politics were not factors.

Unfortunately, it seems that over the years, some, have forgotten the real purpose of the Blue Knights. It's not about position, status, or power. It's about Cops taking care of Cops and helping those in need.

SICK AND DISTRESSED

WE ARE ALL HAPPY TO REPORT THAT CECE MACCONNELL DID WELL FROM HER SURGERY AND IS IN RECOVERY AT HOME. A GOFUND ME PAGE HAS BEEN CREATED TO HELP COVER HER MEDICAL AND HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES. CECEJUDGEMACCONNELL

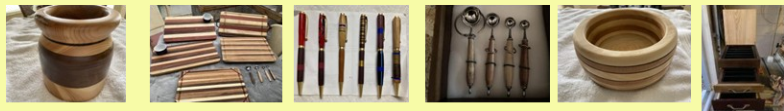
MORE GOOD NEWS!
RORY MACCONNELL UNDERWENT SUCCESSFUL SURGERY AND IS HEALING. HE WILL REQUIRE TREATMENT FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE BUT HE IS BACK TO WORK ON A RESTRICTED BASIS. WE NATURALLY PRAY FOR HIS FULL RECOVERY!

TOM POST HAS BEEN GOING THROUGH A TOUGH TIME MEDICALLY BUT HE IS NOW HOME ON THE MEND.



In the Chapter Market

Woodworking made to order. Tell me what you want, size, and specific wood (if requested) and I will make it. Very reasonable prices. Jim Ryan - 941-313-1363 jryanretired@aol.com





Thank You! to our Sponsors

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