

The

Mid-Knight News



**SPRING 2015
MID WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE
EAGAN, MN
HOSTED BY MN-IV
JUNE 12 - 14, 2015**

WINTER 2015

CONFERENCE OFFICERS

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mwrc@blueknights.org

Vice-Chairman:

Rich Liddick

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Secretary – Treasurer:

Tom Ashing

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International Representative:

Brian Gadd

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Web Master:

Wayne Schwartz

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Safety Officer:

Paul French



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Another year has come and gone, and it is now 2015. Here is hoping that 2015 is a better year at least in my case, than 2014 was.

I have a few reminders for everyone, as it is the start of a new year.

Chapter Presidents, you only have a few days to get your registration packets turned into International. Also, Conference dues are again due, one dollar per member, with a max at \$25.00. Mail the Conference dues to MWRC Secretary / Treasurer, Tom Ashing, at PO Box 890095 Oklahoma City, OK 73189.

Also, remember each chapter must file a tax return with the IRS to keep your tax exempt status.

The early registration cut off for the 2015 International Convention in Reno, NV is February 1st. After February 1st, the registration increases from \$150.00 a person to \$175.00 a person. Information is available on the MWRC Webpage, as well as the International Webpage.

MN-IV is hosting the Spring MWRC in Eagan, MN. The registration is \$75.00 until April 30th, then increases to \$85.00. For more information see their article in this newsletter or go to the MWRC Webpage. The Fall MWRC will be hosted by IA-III in Davenport, IA. They also have a short update article later in this newsletter. The Spring 2016 MWRC will be hosted by IA-VI in the Ottumwa, Iowa area. At the Fall 2014 MWRC no chapter put in a bid for the Fall 2016 MWRC so it, as well as the Spring 2017 MWRC, will come up for bid at the Spring 2015 in Eagan, MN.

Also, remember that 2015 is an International election year, so make sure your addresses are correct on the 2015 renewal packet.

I hope to see each of you at the Spring MWRC, if not before.



VICE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Well it is now 2015. I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday, and Santa was good to everyone.

It's January, time for the annual renewal of your membership. That means the Chapter Vice Presidents are rather busy. I hope that larger chapters have a membership committee to assist the Vice Presidents.

I received an email from International Vice President Jerry Bryan. He is going to hold a conference call with all available conference Vice Chairmen. The subject of the call is to come up with ways to increase membership, and to help in membership retention. I have a couple myself, however, if there is anyone in the conference that has any ideas they would like to share, you can email me at 'rwliddick@cox.net.' Any and all suggestions will be brought forth during the call.

Spring is just around the corner. Remember, the sand and gravel at the corners. Hope to see everyone at the Spring Conference.



INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT



International Representative's Report

There has been one special meeting and two regular BOD meetings since the Fall newsletter. The highlights of the meetings are below. If you would like additional details, the BOD minutes are posted in the "Members Only" section of www.blueknights.org when approved. (*The user name is your membership number and the password is your last name in capital letters*). I send the minutes to each chapter as they become available and request they send them on to each chapter member.

NOVEMBER 8TH, 2014 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING:

There were two agenda items on the Special Meeting, the hiring of an audit firm and the disciplinary appeal hearing of Michael Broman – LA VIII.

After considering 3 firms, the board voted to hire the firm of Edwards, Faust & Smith to conduct the audit. This firm was local but was not the accounting firm presently doing some work for the International. It is my understanding that the firm has begun its work.

Michael Broman presented his appeal. This case was somewhat unique as unlike most disciplinary actions where any suspensions or

punishments do not take effect until after the appeal process is over, Mr. Broman was suspended by the International President DJ Alvarez many months prior. This suspension was never ratified by the BOD as required under our by-laws. The appeal was actually an appeal of a decision of the Southern Conference but there was confusion due to the suspension by the President. Mr. Broman was never advised of his appeal rights to that suspension. At the conclusion of the hearing, the BOD decided in favor of the SRC but the discipline would be time served and his membership rights would be immediately restored.

NOVEMBER 12TH, 2014 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

- Prior to the meeting I resigned from the Bylaw Committee. I had been approached to chair the committee at the International Convention by President Alvarez. I was advised then that I was to run the committee as I saw fit and only needed to keep the President up to date on our progress. The committee was working hard and making progress but I was advised that President Alvarez reversed his approval of an appointee I chose for the committee. I did not appreciate the interference, especially since it appeared to be of a political nature and I took the job based on his assurance that I would be able to run the committee without being micromanaged. As his decision was unwavering, I resigned. Bob Flanagan was appointed to fill the position.
- Treasurer – John Gordon presented the 2015 budget. Budget passed. 14 yes, 1 no – NEC, 1 abstention – MWRC.
- AR IV is in the red from the 2013 International Convention and has requested a loan of \$5,875.41. Approved – 16 yes, 1 no – RGC.
- VP Bryan reported total membership at 19,573 in 626 chapters. The MWRC has 956 in 35 chapters.
- President Alvarez asks that all chapters complete the membership survey and send back with the renewal packet.

Old Business:

Proposals 2014-0008, 0009, 0013, 0014 & 0015 were tabled.

New Business:

2014-0016: BOG proxy voting. Motion died for lack of a second. The proposal rightfully should be passed by the BOG first before it is to be taken up by the BOD.

2014-0017: Constitution Article 6. Add Electronic voting. Withdrawn by the TSC.

2014-0018: To amend bylaw 3.16 to allow voting by electronic means. President Alvarez would not allow a vote of the proposal as he claims it is still illegal in the State of Maine to use electronic voting. An email was produced from an attorney in the Maine Attorney General's Office which gave the decision that electronic voting was permissible if it was in the bylaws. That email was deemed to be insufficient proof and a vote was not allowed.

2014-0019: Approve a one-piece patch. Approved as an alternative.



2014-0020: To allow Jim Beam the use of the corporate logo for use in a limited edition "Booker's Special Batch bourbon". Approved.

2014-0021: To introduce and use an enhanced, security type, mailed out paper ballot election system for the 2015 Blue Knights International Election. The GLRC withdrew the proposal.

Conference Reports: See minutes.

Good of the Order: Please be aware of the early registration date for the International Convention in Reno. Early registration ends on Feb 1, 2015.

JANUARY 10TH, 2015 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

- Headquarters – the basement needs repairs and an addition needs to be considered. The addition can house additional office space and have a museum section. Around \$100,000 was donated some years ago for a museum section. A motion was approved to obtain estimates.
- Audit – President Alvarez and Mike Gratis met with representatives of the audit firm just prior to Christmas. There was a motion to retain the present accounting firm for accounting services – approved. President Alvarez had wished to hire the audit company to take that over however he was told that would be a conflict of interest and would bar the audit firm from any subsequent audits. I made a motion to have an audit done every two years but was asked to withdraw until the audit firm gives their recommendations. I agreed.
- Convention update – The host hotel is full and all future reservations will be at the Silver Legacy. The hotels are connected. Early registrations end February 1st. Please register soon. Refunds are not a problem.
- The Scholarship Committee is deciding on a topic. They should be open for submissions soon.
- The three International Honorary members were approved.
- Treasurer Gordon – the completions of the year-ends are approximately 2 weeks away. Europe has paid back the convention loan. The financial paperwork looks okay to him.

Old Business: Proposals 2014-0008, 0009, 0013, 0014 & 0015 were withdrawn.

New Business:

2015-0001: Extend the period for new members to purchase a motorcycle from 6 months to a year. Died for lack of a motion to approve.

2015-0002: Membership at Large. Approved with amendment changing “headquarters or mailing address” to “charter location”. The 50 mile rule remains in place. Adds verification of qualification to the Conference. This portion supersedes a policy.

2015-0003: To amend the Constitution Section 2. Associate Membership. Passes with amendments. Constitutional changes do not take effect until passed by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority at the next International General Meeting.

2015-0004: Renewing members of the Military Reserves called to full-time duty prior to January 31, 2015 would be eligible to have their 2015 dues waived. No refunds if you have already paid. There was a discussion to have future versions of this proposal heard earlier in the renewal process.

2015-0005: Proposal to fund the mandatory switch from the Australian back patch to the new one piece back patch in the sum of \$3,000. Amendments included splitting the cost with the West Coast Conference \$1,500 each. I added an amendment that any Australian member seeking reimbursement must turn in an illegal Austria back patch. Passed. For those of you not familiar with the controversy, some years ago, an Australian president submitted a design for a front patch which was approved. Members were told that the design was approved for a back patch and began producing them. Australia has very strict motorcycle club laws but that back patch was approved by the Police Commissioners. By the time this was discovered, the back patch was ingrained in the Australian chapters and resistance and cultural differences were present. Some Australian members were removed from the Blue Knights. Many members purchased the illegal colors in good faith and this proposal was an attempt to repair any damages that have ensued. This is a very short description of a complex issue but it was apparent that there was enough blame to go around between the Australians, the West Coast Conference and the International. The distance and isolation did not help matters.

The next BOD meeting was set for April 1st at 0900 CST. The deadline for agenda items is March 13th.

Ride with Pride!

Brian Gadd
MN 1 Chapter President
MWRC International Representative

mwrc.rep@blueknights.org
bgadd@live.com
(507) 828-6503 (cell)
(952) 405-9933 (home)

SECRETARY / TREASURER REPORT

From the office of the

Secretary/Treasurer by Tom Aking

□

From the secretary side, It has been said, “No one hates winter as much as a man who has a motorcycle sitting in his garage.” (Probably more true for someone who just got a new machine!) Cheer up! Winter can’t last forever, even though some chapters are having a fierce winter.

2014 now can only be viewed in the rear views, and 2015 through the windshield. We now look forward to the conference events scheduled for this year. First our Spring Conference, will be in Eagan, MN, in June, hosted by MN IV, then we return to Des Moines, IA in September for the Fall hosted by IA III. We had 15 of our 35 chapters represented at the last Fall Conference, which is about average. We really would like to see more of the chapters get involved and show up at the conferences. Maybe we are not communicating well enough with our chapters and members to let them know what they are missing. Our conferences can be a lot of fun. If we can get them there the first time they can see it is minimal business and a lot of camaraderie, fun and of course a lot of BS. If we can get them hooked, they will return. With the size of our conference, for many, the conferences are the only time we get to see old friends and catch up on what is going on with each other.

2015 also brings us to an election year and most are aware of the candidates. As the secretary, without telling anyone who to vote for, I say do your research and due diligence and vote for the best person for the job.



From the treasurer side, we are solvent, we have some money in the bank, and all of our submitted bills are paid. It is now 2015, which means, of course, renewal time to International and also time for the chapters to pay their conference dues. The dues are \$1.00 per person, with a cap of \$25.00 for the chapters with more than 25 members. Remember also that the payment of chapter dues is necessary for your chapter to have a vote at the conference business meeting. You may mail them to Blue Knights MWRC, PO Box 890095, Oklahoma City, OK 73189. Of course dues will be accepted prior to the meeting at the Spring Conference.

To whichever officer (Secretary or treasurer) that files the 990N tax return for the chapter, don't forget to file it with the IRS.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in June in Minnesota but until then, one other important thing to remember is to ride safely and always,

Ride with Pride

WEB-MASTER REPORT



Happy 2015 to everyone! I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and wish you all the best for the coming year. Since it is a new year, I'm sure there have been a few elections within chapters and there may have been some officer changes. That usually brings some changes to mailing addresses. If your chapter has had such a change, please send those changes to me so I can update the Chapters page on the MWRC website. It is only by keeping the data listed there current that will allow those looking to make contact with your chapter able to do so. I look forward to spring already. Hope to see everyone in June at the Spring MWRC in Eagan! Please provide any changes to me at wayneschwartz@comcast.net or just click any of the links on the website to the webmaster. This is a great time of year to also plan out your rides for the coming season. I know I have already got two rides planned out and am working on a third. Thank you to everyone that has been sending

me their updates and may everyone have a most prosperous and safe 2015!

Ride with Pride,
Wayne Schwartz
MWRC Webmaster

SAFETY REPORT



WINTER SAFETY INFORMATION

Restoring that old motorcycle helmet you love will give it back some semblance of its former glory. Although it may not be possible to remove all blemishes, motorcycle helmets can easily be spruced up. **It is important to replace your helmet if it is dented, cracked or has major damage as this compromises the protective abilities of the helmet.**

Restore your helmet, if it only has superficial damage, by washing it, touching up scratches and replacing the worn visor, lining and straps.

You will **Need:**

- Replacement visor, lining and straps
- Nail polish remover or rubbing alcohol
- Mild dish washing soap
- Soft towels
- Automotive touch-up paint
- Small, round paint brush
- Rubbing compound
- Microfiber cloth



Instructions

Contact the manufacturer of the helmet to order replacement items (visor, lining and straps) that are appropriate for your particular helmet. Replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Remove any stickers with nail polish remover or rubbing alcohol. Saturate the stickers and allow the alcohol to soak in, then rub them off with a towel or rag.

Wash your helmet with a towel soaked with soapy water to remove any dirt and grime. Use a mild dish washing detergent. A helmet cleaning foam can also be used.

Touch up scratches with automotive touch-up paint. Automotive touch-up paints come in a wide range of colors, and more than likely you can find colors that match those on your helmet. Use a small brush to carefully paint over scratches.

Polish the helmet with rubbing compound. Rubbing compound will give the helmet a shine and will help to fill and hide scratches. Buff the helmet with the rubbing compound using a microfiber cloth, working the surface in circular motions. Apply light to medium pressure and do not over-polish the helmet as this can cause clouding on the surface.

THEN – WEAR your helmet in 2015.

RIDE SAFE – RIDE SMART

Paul French MWRC Safety Officer



SPRING 2015 MWRC

The 2015 Spring Conference is bearing down on us and Minnesota IV is looking forward to having you and the MWRC in Minnesota June 12th – 14th, 2015. We have some great plans for rides, food and camaraderie. Starting with the Hospitality Room being open Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Best Western Plus Dakota Ridge located at 3450 Washington Drive, Eagan, MN. Room rates are \$89.99 per night and the offer runs from June 10th to the 16th. PLEASE NOTE: The conference room rates run until February 28th, so get your hotel reservations in early. Cost for the conference is \$75/person until May 1st and \$85/person after that date. T-Shirt orders must be to us by April 30th, no exceptions.

A hotel breakfast is served each morning. There will be 50/50 drawings each evening and lots of raffle prizes plus the Henry Repeating Arms Company special law enforcement commemorative rifle model H004LE, .22 S/L/LR caliber lever action rifle valued at \$1020 to be given away at the banquet. **We wish to thank Henry Repeating Arms Company for their generous donation.** On Friday night, there will be an Italian Dinner before the evening ride to the Memorial Grounds at the State Capitol. Here you can view the Minnesota Peace Officer's Memorial, The Korean War Memorial, The Vietnam War Memorial and World Wars Memorial. As the sun sets, the Memorials come alive with lights and offers beautiful views of the Capitol and downtown St. Paul skyline. Bring your cameras. On Saturday, there will be a ride to Leo's Cycle in Lakeville for a free luncheon. Within a couple of blocks, you can find most of the motorcycle brand shops including Yamaha, Honda and Harley-Davidson to name just a few. A bikers mecca for sure. The Saturday night banquet and awards presentation will be just across the street from the hotel at the Eagan Convention and Visitor Center.

There are many things to see and do in our area including the Mall of America, Minnesota Zoo, Red Wing, MN, Northfield, MN, Minnehaha Falls, Treasure Island Casino, Mystic Lakes Casino, the many lakes and parks in Minneapolis,

Cabela's, Fort Snelling, Air National Guard Museum, just to name a few.

If you haven't yet followed the adventures of Ted E. Bear see our website www.blueknightsmniv.org and find the Ted E. Bear tab in the upper right corner. He has been all over the area and is still planning on traveling around the Minneapolis/St. Paul area before homing in on the hotel sometime before the Conference. On the website you will also find the 2015 Spring Conference tab just above the Ted E. Bear tab. Here you can find the link to the registration forms in a PDF format that can be typed on, then printed out and mailed in with your check. The link to the hotel is www.bestwestern.com/dakotaridge. If you need a paper copy of the registration contact Dave Smith at his cell phone 612-202-8631 or his email at dcs109b@comcast.net.

CHAPTER DUES

As always, chapter dues are due. In order to remain a chapter in good standing within the conference, each chapter must pay dues of one dollar per member up to twenty-five dollars. The dues are due on a yearly basis. The dues must be paid before a chapter will be allowed to vote at the business meeting of the MWRC.

Mail your Conference dues to Conference Treasurer Tom Ashing at: Blue Knights MWRC, PO Box 890095, Oklahoma City, OK 73189.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

KANSAS - Well it's winter time so not much to report on. Kansas VIII, whose VP position became open when Mel Soper resigned due to not being able to devote enough time to the position. He did a great job while he served. President Bob Ober accepted his resignation. At the January Chapter meeting, Darryl Hayes was nominated for Vice President and it was voted on by the members in attendance. Darryl Hayes is now the Vice President of Kansas VIII.

Now is a good time to start talking and looking at the upcoming year for rides, fund raisers, and benefit functions. Membership drives should hold a special part of all members to recruit. As the Kansas State Rep, I am planning on visiting as many departments as I can in Kansas this year and post recruitment flyers and try to get some growth back into our International Club.

I would, in closing, like to wish all our members and their families a super New Year and may it be safe but full of fun and happiness for all.

Darryl S. Hayes

Kansas Blue Knight State Rep

NEBRASKA – Wow, this caught me off guard, short notice just a short report. The first thing is Ernie Reiss is retired now from the Beatrice PD after a whole bunch of years. You will have to ask him next time you see him. Nebraska IV still staying real active they have a group that is constantly getting something going good for them.

The winter is lagging along however, this weekend is supposed to be in the upper 40's, that's good enough to ride if the streets are cleared and well, depending on where you live and how much sand the street department puts down don't want any spills.

We are having our membership drive this weekend instead of the usual chili pot-luck we are going to a respectable cafe hope everyone behaves themselves.

Hope all had a good Christmas and New Year and hopefully see you in Eagan, MN.

RWP Roger Schleicher Nebraska State Rep.

OKLAHOMA - Winter in Oklahoma can bring one of two things, temperatures in the 20's or on occasion we might see a day or two in the low 60's. We are all keeping our fingers crossed that the weatherman is earning his pay and that the forecast is correct. If so, I am sure that you will see some Blue Knights on their bikes headed to their favorite route or eating locations.

For the most part, our bikes are all cleaned up, on the trickle chargers just waiting for the chance to come to life once again. I think that most brothers and sisters, unlike some that I know from the north, maintain insurance on their motorcycles year-round because we are always hoping for the days when the heat tab (i.e. the sun) shines bright and warms up those black leathers.

Oklahoma I came together for comradeship and to celebrate the Christmas holidays, like so many chapters do. This year they collected canned goods and donated them to the Tulsa Food Bank. Way to go Oklahoma I.



Some courageous members of Oklahoma IV braved the cold and the dreary weather to ride in the Walters Christmas parade and as you can see, there was more than one "Rudolf" in this parade.

They were "Santa's" escort in the parade and it was an excellent opportunity for a small town in Southwest Oklahoma to see the Blue Knights in action.

And finally one of the best photo bomb pics of the year, taken at the Oklahoma IV Christmas Party. Until next time, keep the rubber down, and stay between the lines. Ride with Pride!

Dave McDermott – OK IV – Oklahoma State Representative



MISSOURI - Hope everyone had a joyous Christmas and are looking forward to a great new year. Shelia and I will be attending the Winter Blahs party hosted by MN I in Bloomington, MN. We will also be going to the International Motorcycle Show while there, something I have always wanted to do! Hopefully riding weather will be upon us before we know it!

Ride with pride,

Gary Reed MO - State Representative

NORTH DAKOTA - Brrrrr. For those of you that have a longer riding season, I'm jealous. We have been having highs below zero for a while. It's planning time. Planning trips, planning maintenance, maybe planning for a new bike for next riding season. Maybe planning on retiring to a warmer part of the country.

From all of us in the north, to those of you in the south, think of us when you're out there riding, and quit laughing.

Other than that, there is little to report for this time of year. I hope you all received something good from Santa. Hopefully we'll have a short winter and get out on the roads in April.

RWP

Keith Schroeder

IOWA - Greetings from Iowa! Not a lot to report so far. It's been cold, it's been warm. It's been dry and it's been wet. Currently we have some snow on the ground, but it should be gone by next week since we have several days coming up that are supposed to be in the 40's. I'm sure we will see some bikes out by then, if only for a few hours.

Several members from Iowa III are making plans for the upcoming Winter Blah's put on by MN I, February 6th – 8th. Seems like Minnesota will be involved with most of our spring rides starting in May with the Root River Run and the Spring MWRC in Eagan, MN.

In between these events, Iowa III will continue to

finalize our plans for the Fall MWRC in Des Moines (September 11-13, 2015). The host hotel is the Holiday Inn – Des Moines Airport, 6111 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321. Their telephone number is 515-287-2400. Be sure to mention you're with the Blue Knights.

Registration form will be available on line shortly, but rooms can be reserved anytime.

For those coming in on Thursday or early Friday, we are working on a ride to the State Capitol to visit the Iowa Law Enforcement Memorial on September 11th. From there we will ride to the Polk County Freedom Rock in Bondurant.

We are selling tickets with a chance to win the Quilt at our conference. The drawing will be held on Saturday night at the banquet. The winner need not be present to win. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, contact me; Rick Fedson at rmfedson@gmail.com.



For those that register before our pre-registration deadline of August 17th, 2015, you will be entered in a drawing for two complimentary night's stay on Friday and Saturday. So don't wait till the last minute.

Other news in Iowa, Iowa VI at last count was over 50 members. They made a successful bid for the Spring 2016 MWRC to be held in the Ottumwa area.

That's all for now,

Rick Fedson, Iowa Rep



June 12-14, 2015

Hosted by MINNESOTA IV

Blue Knight Last Name First State/Chapter

Guest Last Name First State/Chapter

Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Cell Phone Other

Email (for confirmation of receipt)

In case of emergency please notify

Their primary phone number is

The host hotel is the Best Western Plus Dakota Ridge. It is located at 3450 Washington Drive, Eagan, MN 55122. The phone number is 651-452-0100. The hotel is on the south side of the twin cities. Room rates of \$89.99 per night are valid from June 10 - 16, 2014. The conference rate expires on February 28, 2015. They have a shuttle that runs to several area attractions for families including the Mall of America and Apple Valley Zoo. See the hotel web page for greater details. It is www.BestWestern.com/dakotaridge

See our web page at www.blueknightsmniv.org and go to the conference tab for additional information about what your registration fee gets you. If you have any questions, please e-mail them to dcs109b@comcast.net or contact President Dave Smith at 612-202-8631.

Please make Check or Money Orders Payable to:
Blue Knights MN IV
109B South Drive
Circle Pines, MN 55014

Registration Fees
Before May 1, 2015

@ \$75.00 =

After May 1, 2015

@ \$85.00 =

T-shirt Order

Small Medium

Large X-Large

2X Large 3X Large

4X Large 5X Large

Small - XL \$20 Each 2XL - 5XL \$22 each
(depending on availability)

Registration Fees \$

T-shirt Fees \$

Total \$



Blue Knights Iowa III

Hosting the 2015

Fall M.W.R.C.

September 11-13



Pre-Registration price is \$ 75.00 per person. After August 17th Registration will be \$85.00.

T-Shirts available to pre-registered guest only.

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ State/Chapter _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____ @ _____

Guest/Passenger _____

Number registering for the conference

_____ @ \$75.00 = _____

_____ @ \$85.00 = _____

Total registration & T-Shirts _____

T-Shirt order

_____ Small @ \$14 = _____

_____ Med @ \$14 = _____

_____ Lge @ \$14 = _____

_____ X Lge @ \$14 = _____

_____ XXL @ \$16 = _____

_____ XXXL @ \$16 = _____

T-Shirt Total _____

We will draw from the pre-registrations for a chance to win two free nights at the Holiday Inn. (Friday and Saturday nights)

The host hotel is the **Holiday Inn- Des Moines Airport**

6111 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321

Tel: 515-287-2400

Fax: 515-287-4811

1-800-248-4013

Holidayinn.com/dsm-airport

Room rates are \$ 93.00 per night.

Rate is good for 2 days prior and 2 days after the conference

Please make checks payable to **Blue Knights Iowa III**

Send completed registration and payment to;

Blue Knights Iowa III

PO Box 37261

Des Moines, IA 50315

If you have any other questions contact Rick Fedson rmfedson@hotmail.com

Or Mike Adams mjadams75@yahoo.com

MN-I WINTER BLAHS PARTY

February 6 - 8, 2015

Host hotel is the [Hampton Inn & Suites](#)

2860 Metro Dr

Bloomington, MN 55425 952-854-7600

Registration is \$20.00 per person.

Registration form is available on the MWRC Webpage.

Registration includes hospitality room both nights providing beer, soft drinks, food and snacks.

Hospitality room to open by 6:00pm each evening

Mail registration form and checks to:

**Blue Knights MN I
1648 Whitehall PI
Shakopee, MN 55379**

Motorcyclist fatalities, injuries decline in 2013

January 07, 2015

PICKERINGTON, Ohio -- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says the number of motorcyclists killed in traffic crashes declined by 6.4 percent from 2012 to 2013, and the number injured dropped 5.4 percent, the American Motorcyclist Association reports.

In 2013, 4,668 motorcyclist fatalities were reported, down 318 from the 4,986 in 2012. Similarly, 88,000 "occupants" were reported to have been injured in motorcycle crashes in 2013, down from 93,000 the year before.

The NHTSA also reported that motor vehicle crash fatalities overall decreased by 3.1 percent in 2013 and injuries declined 2.1 percent.

"While one motorcycle fatality is one too many, we are pleased to see this number decline," said Rob Dingman, AMA president and CEO. "It also is good that motorcycle injuries and fatalities are falling at a greater rate than for motor vehicles overall. And we sincerely hope this trend continues."

One factor in the lower incidence of motorcycle crash fatalities was an 8.3 percent decrease in the number of motorcycle crashes in which the rider was impaired by alcohol, the NHTSA reported.

The NHTSA report also noted that there were 190 fewer fatalities in 2013 among motorcyclists aged 50 to 69 years. That decline represented 60 percent of the total decrease in motorcyclist fatalities.

"Motorcyclist safety is of utmost importance," Dingman said. "That is why the AMA is participating in the Motorcycle Crash Causation Study underway at Oklahoma State University. We hope that the information from this extensive examination of motorcycle crashes will lead to better strategies for making our roads safer for motorcyclists."

The Motorcycle Crash Causation Study is the first comprehensive examination since the 1981 Hurt Report on the factors contributing to motorcycle crashes in the United States.

When the project is completed in 2016, it will provide a large and unique data set derived from actual motorcycle crashes and riders with similar risk characteristics, with a focus on the unique circumstances that produce motorcycle crashes.

The Motorcycle Crash Causation Study will provide up-to-date information on the types of dangers modern motorcyclists face. The study is important, because it will provide new insights into which factors affect motorcyclist safety and how.