

The
Mid-Knight News

Spring 2017
Hosted by
MO - X & KC Metro
In Saint Joseph, MO
June 9 - 11, 2017



FALL 2016

Conference Officers

Chairman and Editor:

Rick McCrea
mwrc@blueknights.org

Vice-Chairman:

Ken Delano
ken.delano@gmail.net

Secretary – Treasurer:

Tom Ashing
tomashing@cox.net

International Representative:

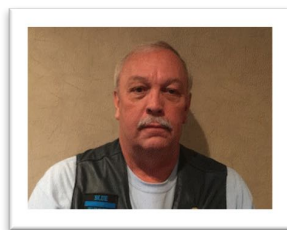
Doug Casteel
mwrc.rep@blueknights.org

Web Master:

Wayne Schwartz
wayneschwartz@comcast.net

Safety Officer:

To be announced at
the Spring Conference



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Fall MWRC is over and I must say NE-II did a great job putting it on. They had great food, fun times and lots of places to go and things to see.

It was also great to see so many people in attendance both from within our conference, as well as many from other conferences and even one of our Founding Fathers. Even our current International President and Vice-President, as well as the BOG Vice-Chairman, were in attendance.

At the business meeting on Saturday, I had the unfortunate duty to announce that on September 6th, the Mid West Conference Safety Officer Paul French passed away from a heart attack.

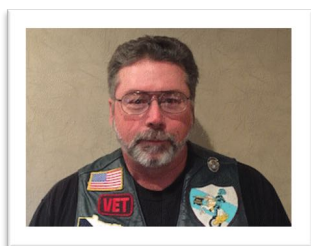
It was also election time. I was running unopposed, as was Secretary / Treasurer Tom Ashing. Brian Gadd, who has been the MWRC International Representative since 2008, decided not to run again. Doug Casteel from MO-III, volunteered to step in and ran un-opposed for the position. As for the Vice Chairman position, we had a three-way race between Rich Liddick, NE-II, Ken Delano, MN-I and Dave Smith, MN-IV, with Ken Delano winning the race.

I would like to thank both Brian Gadd and Rich Liddick for all the hard work they both put into the conference.

No one placed a bid for any future conferences. The 2017 Spring will be hosted by MO-X and KC Metro in Saint Joseph MO, from June 9th to the 11th. After much discussion, KS-III volunteered or more accurately, was volunteered to host the 2017 Fall Conference. The date for the Fall is September 28th to October 1st, 2017.

We need chapters to host Conferences. Everyone seems to agree that they like us having both a Spring and Fall Conference, but no one is willing to host one. While hosting a Conference is a lot of work it is also a good way for your chapter to make some money.

At the Spring Conference in Saint Joseph, MO we will be accepting bids for the Spring 2018, the Fall 2018, and the Spring 2019 Conferences. Talk to your chapter and put in a bid.



VICE-CHAIRMAN REPORT

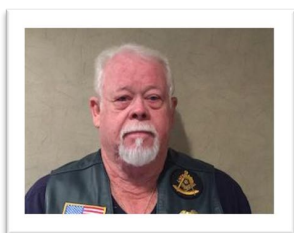
Greetings MWRC! By now, all chapters should have received renewal packets from International. If you have not received yours, please call the International Office right away. I am currently working on getting a new Chapter chartered in the Miami, OK area. (North East Corner). Hopefully they will be up and running before December.

As most of you are aware, we lost Paul French just a few days prior to the Fall MWRC. Paul was the MWRC Safety Officer for many years. A celebration of his life will be held this coming January. More detailed information will be provided by Iowa III later in this newsletter.

How about the awesome job NE II did for the Fall MWRC in Omaha, NE! For those that were not able to attend, you missed a real good time. Plenty to eat and drink, wonderful events in the evening at the hotel and some awesome rides!

I hope to see a large attendance in St Joseph, MO this coming June. This Conference is being hosted by MO X & KS I. For more detailed information, see the MWRC website or contact Don Tyes at bigdude@stjoelive.com. More and more of us are showing up on Thursday for the conferences. That one extra night seems to make the conference just that much better. See you in St Joe! Ride with Pride!

Ken Delano



SECRETARY / TREASURER REPORT

I want to start off by thanking NE II for hosting the Fall Conference, they did a great job and we had an outstanding number in attendance. It is always great to get a chance to join together with our brother and sister knights in a spirit of camaraderie and share good times.

But alas, it appears the biggest part of our riding for the year is in the rear view mirrors rather than the windshield. The remaining riding time now depends upon Mother Nature. Some of us will be more fortunate than others and may be able to squeeze a day or so in during the winter to get the bikes out and blow the cobwebs not only out of the bike, but our minds as well. Always relaxing to be able to get on the bike and ride, anywhere, just ride.

This was an election year and we only had one contested position, that of the Vice-Chairman. We

want to thank the three candidates who stepped forward to fill the position. The winner was Ken Delano from MN I. With the decision of Brian Gadd to step down, the other position that became open was his position, that of the International Representative. It took some persuasion, and maybe a little of coercion but we managed to get Doug Casteel from MO III to accept the position. The Chairman and Secretary / Treasurer were unopposed and therefore will repeat for another term.

But we still have an open position, that of Safety Officer. We were saddened to learn just a couple days before the conference, our Safety Officer Paul French, transferred to Heaven I. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kathy.

The position will be filled at the Spring Conference. See the instructions on filling this position elsewhere in this publication.

The winner of the bid for the Spring 2017 Conference goes to MO X, who along with KC Metro, will host the Spring 2017. It will be at the Stoney Creek Inn Hotel and Conference Center in St Joseph, MO, 9-11 June 2017. The registration form is already on the MWRC Web-page as a downloadable PDF form.

Our board must be getting good at the art of persuasion. I don't know if they persuaded, shamed or coerced KS III to host the Fall 2017 Conference. It will be a little later than usual, it will be 28 Sep to 1 Oct. at the Capitol Plaza Hotel & Convention Center in Topeka, KS. Further information is also available on the MWRC website. Now that we have 2017 taken care of we must start working on the conferences for 2018. Any volunteers?

If your chapter has never, or if it has been a long time since you hosted a conference, why not think about it and get together a bid. They are a little work, but they are also a lot of fun, especially when it is over.

I know it's a little early, but some people have to make plans for vacations a long way into the future. It's time to turn our thoughts to the

International Convention for 2017. Most of you know it will be in Milwaukee, 16-21 July 2017 hosted by WI VI.

Then for 2018, we will travel to Atlanta, GA where GA XVI will host the 44th International Convention 15-20 July 2018. More details are available on our MWRC website.

FROM THE TREASURER SIDE:

We are solvent, we have some money in the bank, and all of our submitted bills are paid. Now that we are nearing the end of the year, I will not bother to remind you of dues, at least not until Jan.

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

Ride with Pride



INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT



First, I would like to say that I have some pretty big shoes to fill, as Brian Gadd did an excellent job representing our conference for the last 8 ½ years. I hope I can live up to the expectations. We should all remember why we became members of this organization, to ride motorcycles with likeminded people, get back to the basics and have fun.

NE II exceeded my expectations when they hosted the MWRC Fall Conference and celebrated their 20th anniversary. It was the best MWRC Conference that I have ever attended. Founding Father Chuck Shuman's speech about the history of the Blue Knights and the need to recruit young members was something that every Blue Knight should hear. He is a class act and was a special treat for everyone.

There have been two Board of Directors (BOD) meetings that I have represented you at since taking this position. On September 25th, there was a Special BOD meeting where it was decided to eliminate the position of Executive Director and replace it with Office Manager. Bessie Small is no longer employed by the Blue Knights and Jana Clark was appointed Interim Office Manager.

On October 15th, the BOD met again. Headquarters Committee Chairman Bob Flanagan, requested approval to increase the rent on our commercial rental property from \$2,600 a month to \$2,800 a month for the upcoming 2 year rental contract. It was approved unanimously. Treasurer John Gordon reported that they are working to improve the business practices and already have instituted new procedures. He also advised that the Budget Committee will have a proposed 2017 budget prepared for the December meeting. Vice President Jerry Bryan advised we currently have 18,600 members in 628 chapters. Office Manager Jana Clark advised that the renewal packets are in the mail. Currently, Jana is the only one in the office so please be patient with her. They are in the process of trying to hire another employee. Board of Governor's (BOG) Chairman Rory MacConnell reported there have been 9 payouts from the Special Fund this year. He asked that all chapters donate to the Special Fund.

There was a motion to spend up to \$20,000 dollars for a Forensic Audit of the International's Accounts and if it costs more the Executive Board is required to bring it back to the BOD. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal 2016-0010 – Donate \$500 to the UK Nephrotic Syndrome Trust through the United Kingdom and Ireland Conference. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal 2016-0011 – Donate \$500 to the Renal Unit of Newcastle Royal Victoria Hospital through the United Kingdom and Ireland Conference. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal 2016-0012 – Add a section to the New Proposal Form that would require that an estimate of cost be provided by the person, group, or conference making the proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal 2016-0013 – Place former member Steve Sanders of NC XVIII and NC II on the Persona Non Grata list. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Good of the Order BOG Rory MacConnell spoke about the International Building Fundraiser. The fundraiser started on June 21st, 2016 and will end on July 1st, 2017. The contributors will be recognized.

The Donation Tiers Are As Follows, In US Dollars Only:

COPPER - \$100.00

BRONZE - \$250.00

SILVER - \$500.00

GOLD - \$750.00

PLATINUM - \$1,000.00

PLATINUM PLUS any amount over \$1,100.00.

In addition to the aforementioned I attended the Fall Southern Regional Conference in Lafayette, LA and represented the MWRC there. LA XIV did a great job.

A starter packet was sent to Ottawa County, OK after it was determined that it did not interfere with any other chapter's recruiting area. State Rep Dave McDermott and Vice Chairman Ken Delano were provided the contact information to offer assistance.

If you have any questions or need my help don't hesitate to contact me at mwrc.rep@blueknights.org

Ride with Pride,
Doug Casteel
MWRC Intl Rep
mwrc.rep@blueknights.org

WEB-MASTER REPORT



October is almost gone and so is our riding season. Where did it go? Oh well, time to start thinking about where to go next year. A couple great places to add to your list are St Joseph, MO in June and Topeka, KS in Sept. Yup, those are our Spring and Fall Conferences next year and both sound like they are going to be chocked full of exciting things to do and see. Information for both are listed on the Events page of the MWRC web site along with the Registration Form for the Spring Conference. The Fall Conference Registration Form is promised to be available very, very soon. Back to the web site, please be sure to notify me if you have an address change for your chapter so I can keep your contact information current so prospective members can contact you about joining your chapters. So until next time, stay safe out there and as always,

RIDE WITH PRIDE!

SAFETY OFFICER POSITION

The MWRC Board needs to fill the Safety Officer vacancy. As the MWRC Board appoints the Safety Officer, it has been decided that we will fill the position in the following manner. Anyone interested in being the MWRC Safety Officer, please send a e-mail of interest to mwrc@blueknights.org Include all information on why you would be the best candidate for the position, schools attended, certifications, etc. The deadline for submitting your letter of interest to me is December 31st, 2016.

The Safety Officer provides a quarterly report for the Mid-Knight News as well as provides reports at both the Spring and Fall Mid West Conferences. The Safety Officer also provides short articles for the Mid West web page. As a member of the MWRC Board, the Conference pays the registration to the Spring and Fall Mid West Conferences which the Safety Officer is expected to attend.

After reviewing the letters, the MWRC Board will choose what we feel are the top candidates. We will ask those candidates to submit a sample Mid-Knight News safety article to us. We will review those articles and plan on having a short meeting with the top candidates on the Thursday, before the Spring MWRC, where we will announce the new Safety Officer.



SAFETY OFFICER REPORT

As I am sure everyone is aware of by now, Paul French the MWRC Safety Officer passed away on September 6th from a heart attack.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Paul on January 14th, 2017 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Johnston Lions Club, 6401 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA.

A few of us who plan on going to Paul's Celebration of Life, will be staying at the Quality Inn & Suites, 4995 NW Merle Hay Road, in Des Moines. The property number is IA033, their phone is (515) 278-2381.

You can view Paul's obituary and condolences at www.hamiltonsfuneralhome.com, then click on Services & Obituaries, type in Paul's name and make sure you change the date.

A tribute to Paul is also available on the MWRC web page under the Safety Officer Report.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Kathy and their family. Paul will be greatly missed by all of us.



A NOTE FROM VICKI SHUMAN

Hi Dave:

Just touching base with you to once again, thank you for EVERYTHING you did this past weekend--from the transportation to/from the airport, the excellent bike for Martyn and the never-ending wine glass-- just to name a few things. You ALL went above and beyond making us feel so welcome and very "loved." To be honest with you, I have been to quite a few conventions and conferences and more times than not, we (my folks and I) haven't felt a sense of camaraderie and passion that we felt from everyone this past weekend at your conference. Frankly, I was getting quite discouraged at the direction the club was taking as there always seemed to be more in-fighting and politics at these events rather than putting the focus on what is really important and remembering why the club was founded in the first place.

You, Paul and Matt (and the rest of your chapter) are true examples of what Blue Knights should be and are a model for other's who sometimes seem to forget. It really is about fun, family and riding as well as helping each other and the community. That's the Blue Knights I remember as a kid. It was never about the politics, the title, or being in the spotlight... It was always about having fun with your family and riding. I am so happy to see that the foundation of the club is still going strong with members like you and those in your chapter. It really makes me feel proud to be a part of this amazing club and to meet such inspiring and generous members, such as yourself.

Please keep in touch and I hope our paths cross again soon.
All my best to you, Paul and Matt.

As always,
Ride With Pride

Vicki Shuman

A well deserved letter of praise, from the daughter of one of our Founding Fathers to NE-11 for the excellent job they did in hosting the 2016 Fall Mid West Conference.



THANK YOU FROM NEBRASKA II

Nebraska II would like to thank each and every one that attended the MWRC Fall 2016 Conference in Omaha, NE. Without you, these events would not be a success. Blue Knights traveled from Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, Texas, Wisconsin, and two provinces from Canada to join mid-west members for fellowship, rides and fun.

Almost all states within the Mid-West Regional Conference, were represented and it showed with 211 registered attendees. We were honored with the presences of both the International President DJ Alvarez and International Vice President Jerry Bryan and International Board of Governor Vice-Chairman Cal Ennals.

Special guest Chuck Shuman, Founding Father/Past International President, and his family joined in on the fun. This was Chuck's first time attending a MWRC Conference and he was not disappointed. Members of all ages and backgrounds had a chance to talk with him. Chuck gave a very moving speech that had the attention of the entire crowd.

However, with all the celebrating and folks enjoying the weekend, we did stop to honor and pay our respects to Paul French MWRC Safety Officer, who passed suddenly days prior to the conference and joined Heaven I. We were honored that Mrs. French was still able to attend and be with her Blue Knight family in her time of need. Our hearts go out to her!

Once again, a big thank you from every member of Nebraska II for making the 2016 Fall Conference in Omaha a huge success!

Dave Smith, Secretary



2017 SPRING MWRC UPDATE

The Spring Blue Knights LEMC MWRC, will be held from June 9th – 11th, 2017, at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, in St. Joseph, Missouri. The hotel is located at 1301 North Woodbine Road. Telephone numbers for reservations are 1-800-659-2220 and 1-816-901-9600. Room rates are \$89.00 plus tax, per night. Book your room early. We will provide details for the overflow hotel when the host hotel is full. Registration cost are \$75.00 per person prior to April 1st, 2017, and \$85.00 per person thereafter. Conference T-shirts are \$20.00 for sizes S-XL and \$22.00 for sizes 2XL-5XL. Events for members arriving on Thursday June 8th, will begin at 6:30 PM with a group ride for dinner. The hospitality room will open prior to the Thursday dinner ride.

On Friday June 9th we will have a group ride to one of our local tourist attractions and a ride for lunch. After lunch, members will be free to visit any other tourist sites. We will supply maps and our members will be available to guide and provide directions to the many sites. Some of the sites members should find interesting include the Patee House Museum, Jessie James home, the Glore Psychological Museum, the Pony Express Stables and the St. Joseph Frontier Casino. Dinner will be provided at the hotel at 6:00 PM.

On Saturday June 10th, at 9:30, we will hold our conference meeting. Following the meeting, members will assemble for procession as we ride to pay tribute and honor our Fallen Officers. The procession will end at one of the local motorcycle dealerships with lunch, music, and a raffle. Saturday evening will began with a banquet at 7:00 PM, followed by a prize raffle, hospitality, and more fun. The prize raffle will include an assault shotgun – ticket prices \$10.00 and a Knights queen size quilt – ticket prices \$5.00.

2017 FALL MWRC UPDATE

Kansas III is proud to announce, that we will be hosting the Fall 2017 Mid West Conference. It will be held in Topeka, KS beginning at 3:00 pm on Thursday, September 28th, 2017 and ending at 11:00 am on Sunday, October 1st, 2017. The host hotel is Capitol Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, 1717 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS, 800-579-7937, www.capitolplazahoteltopeka.com. The Blue Knights discounted room rate is \$91.00 (single-occupancy) or \$96.00 (double-occupancy) per night plus tax. The Conference price is \$85.00 per person through July 31st, 2017 and \$95.00 per person after July 31st.

Conference Highlights:

We will have a raffle drawing for a **brand new 2017 Harley-Davidson Iron 883**. Hospitality room with free beer, wine, and soft drinks Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, hot breakfast buffet Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings, buffet dinner Friday night, banquet dinner Saturday night, live music Friday night, DJ providing music Thursday and Saturday nights, bike wash Friday & Saturday, featuring the Women of American Chrome. Discounted admission to the Evel Knievel Thrill Show and Museum, the Ride4Cops Memorial Motorcycle will be on display, rides and tours. Lots of items to be given away (by raffle) and more FUN than you'll know what to do with!

Come join us and RIDE WITH PRIDE!

For more information contact Jim Miller at 785-766-4600 or at jimmiller@jim-san.com.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS (only three reports this quarter)

IA STATE REPRESENTATIVE RICK FEDSON

As many of you know, Iowa III lost one of its long time members Paul French September 6th, just before the Fall M.W.R.C. in Omaha.

Paul has served as the Safety Officer for the Midwest Conference for many years. He also is a past Secretary-Treasurer for Iowa III.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Jan. 14th, 2017 at the Johnston Lions Club. Memorials may be made in his memory to the Urbandale Police Dept., Johnston Lions Club, or the Johnston Public Library.

Condolences may be expressed at: www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com

Iowa I also transferred a member to Heaven One in September. One of Iowa I's charter members and Past Presidents (1982-84). Robert (Bob) Bain died on Monday, September 5th, 2016 in Okeechobee, Florida. Please keep his wife Pat and the Bain family in your thoughts and prayers.

Bob served on the Blue Knights International Board for 6 years and was involved in establishing the BK Midwest Regional Conference. He was a very active longtime member of our motorcycle club. Bob will be forever remembered for his contributions to the foundation of the Blue Knights, his efforts immensely influenced the organizations growth. I would encourage everyone to leave an inspirational message at; <http://www.okeechobeefuneralhome.com/obituaries/Robert-Bain-2/>

Rick Fedson – Iowa State Rep

MO STATE REPRESENTATIVE GARY REED

Congratulations to Nebraska II for hosting a great Mid West Fall Conference and also celebrating their 20th Anniversary. We have two new people on the MWRC board. They are Ken Delano from MN I as the new Vice-Chairman and Doug Casteel from MO III as the new International Representative.

Also, a big thank you to Rich Liddick, past Vice-Chairman and Brian Gadd, past International Representative for your service in those positions.

Riding weather is coming to an end. Time to hook up the battery tender, then sit by the fire and plan trips for next spring and summer.

Ride with pride,

Gary Reed



OK State Representative Dave McDermot

Big shout out to Nebraska II for the excellent Fall Conference and celebrating their 20th Anniversary as a chapter. Job well done sisters and brothers! If you were in attendance then you know what I mean, if not, you missed one heck of a good conference.

Sometimes the fall and spring are the best riding weather in Oklahoma. It's not in the 100's or in the 20's.

Oklahoma I has been taking full advantage of it including dinner rides and a ride out to the Claremore Veteran's Center to honor and visit with our military veterans.



Located in the Southeast part of the state, Oklahoma VIII, located in Overbook, just south of Ardmore, Oklahoma, recently participated in Love County Poker Run in their neck of the woods. You can tell by the picture they had a great time.



Oklahoma IV recently finished their annual Kiddieland Amusement Park fund raiser in support of the Stephens County Youth Shelter raising over \$600.

From the Northwest part of the state, Oklahoma VI recently completed their annual Poker Run for Parkinson's which is always well supported by the folks around Elk City.

As you can see, our brothers and sisters have been busy. Sorry this is so short, but the weather is nice and its time to ride!

On a safety note, always remember to check your tire pressure! Until we meet again, Ride with Pride.



Dave McDermott – OK Rep
lockup64@gmail.com