

Mid-Knight News

SUMMER 2022

www.blueknightsmwrc.com



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Well, we are halfway through summer and I hope you have been enjoying it so far. It has been a busy time for me the last month and a half. I attended our conference in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Great time by the way. ND I put on a fantastic event. The weather even cooperated.

After returning from that, it was off to Ireland for the International Convention.

We participated in the pre-convention bus tour and had a great time



seeing more of the island. I'm glad we were not on bikes as there was a fair share of rain most days. The actual convention did not disappoint. It was very well planned and the food and camaraderie were top notch. Attending the convention from the MWRC were Doug Casteel (MO III), Chris, Dan & Kim Boerner (MN II) and Brenda & I (MN I).



Red Knights poker Run. They were a great group of guys & gals and were very welcoming.

The Saturday following our return home, Brenda & I represented the Blue Knights at a

CONFERENCE OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN:

Brian Gadd

mwrc@blueknights.org

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Bobby Clark

Bobbyc1563@gmail.com

SECRETARY/ TREASURER:

Tom Luellen

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INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE:

Doug Casteel

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WEB MASTER:

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SAFETY OFFICER / EDITOR:

Rick McCrea

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Our Fall Conference is fast approaching and it looks like MO X has lined up many activities. Among those is their Annual Fallen Officer Ride. The entry fee for that ride is included in your registration package. I hope you make every attempt to attend and support our regional conferences.



As my term as Mid-West Chairman comes to an end in September and the next newsletter doesn't come out until October, I would like to take a moment to thank the Conference presidents and Chapter members for their support during the past 4 years! A special shout-out to Chapters who hosted Conferences. I would also like to thank those who

volunteered for appointed positions; all the State Reps (past & present), Safety Officer & Newsletter Editor Rick McCrea, Webmaster Wayne Schwartz. Of course, I also have to thank our elected officers for their support and assistance and wish them the best as they continue to serve the Mid-West Conference. I would like to welcome Duane Potter (KS V) to the Mid-West Board. He will take over as Sec/Treasurer in September as Tom Luellen is vacating that position to become our Chairman.

Check out the Mid-West Conference web page for information on upcoming events as well as other conference related matters.



<http://www.blueknightsmwrc.com/events.html>

Hope to see you in St. Joseph in September!

Ride with Pride!

Brian Gadd, Chairman
Mid-West Regional Conference

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Hard to believe it's mid-July already. It was great to see you all in Grand Forks, ND for the Spring Conference. If I did not see you in Grand Forks, I hope to see you in St. Joseph, MO. for the Fall Conference Sept. 15th -18th. If you are thinking about going to St. Joseph but have not registered or reserved a room, I urge you to do so as soon as possible.

As you know fall 2022 is election time for your MWRC officers. During the Spring Conference, nominations were closed and all positions were unopposed. I am very proud to be serving you all for the next two years. Quite the honor. As of September, I want to congratulate Tom Luellen for taking on the role of Chairman and I also want to welcome Duane Potter from KS V to the board as your Sec/Treasurer. I also want to thank Brian Gadd for his work as the MWRC Chairman these past years.



Please remember to log onto the MWRC website <http://www.blueknightsmwrc.com/events.html> to keep up on conference dates.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns I can help you with, please feel free to call me anytime on my cell phone (402) 306-1652.

RWP!!

Bobby Clark "Top Hat"

Bobbyc1563@gmail.com

216 Lori Lane

Council Bluffs, IA 51503

MWRC Vice Chairman

BKNEII President

Blue Knights® International
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.

SECRETARY - TREASURER'S REPORT



Unless something unforeseen happens, this will be my last article as your MWRC Secretary / Treasurer. At the September meeting in St. Joseph, we will hold elections for the four MWRC Executive Board positions. As was published earlier this year, anyone wanting to run for one of the positions needed to declare their intent before the end of the meeting in Grand Forks. Several months ago, Chairman Brian Gadd

decided to step down from that position. After some consideration, I decided to run for that position and was the only member to do so. Vice Chairman Bobby Clark and Int'l Rep. Doug Casteel are both running unopposed for re-election. Duane Potter was the only member to step up and run for Secretary/Treasurer. It has been a great pleasure to serve as your Secretary / Treasurer and I am looking forward to serving at your MWRC Chairman.

Speaking of Grand Forks, kudos to ND I for ordering the great weather. It was a great weekend full of camaraderie and fellowship. I was lucky enough to spend a few days in the Black Hills afterwards with a great Blue Knight friend and another couple who were on their first multi day motorcycle trip. These are the things memories are made of.



If the past is any indication, the upcoming conference in St. Joseph should be a good one. MO X has always put on a good time, especially when they hold their Fallen Officers Memorial Ride on the same weekend. I'm looking forward to it.

Lastly, as always, I must remind all chapters that the annual MWRC dues are due. Each chapter owes \$1.00 per member, with a cap at \$25.00, to the conference. As of July 13th, I have 20 out of our 31 chapters paid. If I have

not received your chapter's dues by the business meeting in St. Joseph, your chapter will not be allowed to vote. Please mail them to the address below or bring them to St. Joseph.

Until then, RWP!

Tom Luellen
MWRC Sec/Treas.
2733 E. Battlefield St. Ste. 154
Springfield, MO 65804
spd846ret@hotmail.com
417-860-263

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT



Since the last newsletter, I represented the conference at the Spring Conference in Grand Forks, ND. I also just returned home from the International Convention in Killarney, Ireland. In my opinion, Ireland I put on a top-notch convention, that will be praised for years. I represented you in the International Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, attended the Board of Governors (BOG) and General Membership meetings.

Board of Governors:

The Board of Governors (BOG) didn't have any of the elected officers present, so the meeting was opened by Pam McClaren PA X, who took nominations for a member to chair the meeting. Tom Elliott UK&I Chairman was elected from the floor and Pam McClaren was elected as the scribe. Once Tom Elliott took the dais, he went into a long editorial condemning the elected officials of the BOG for not being present and the uselessness of the BOG as a whole. Several believed the meeting was illegal due to half of the elected board not being present. A motion was made and approved to conduct the meeting in protest and receive the reports and not conduct votes on their approval (38 yeas, 4 nays, 1 abstention).

The Distinguished Service and Meritorious Service Awards were acknowledged and read into the record. The 50th International Convention Committee was awarded the bid to host the 2024 International Convention in Sugarloaf, ME. The 2023 International Convention will be held July 16-21 at the Penn-Harris Hotel in Harrisburg, PA.

The election results for the BOG were read with the following results: 311 ballots cast, Chairman Dominic Squillace 291; Vice-Chairman Andreas Hohendorf 172, John O'Donnell 56, Wayne Schulz 82; Secretary Glenn Wheat 298, Treasurer Mike Rickard 295.

General Membership Meeting:

Headquarters Committee PP Guy O'Connor advised we no longer have any rental income adding to the accounts so with the annual expenses we are going to run the Headquarters Accounts dry if we don't do something. One thought is to sell the current building and buy a building that would meet our needs along with some rental space or hall rental. Under the current real estate market, no changes are advisable at the moment.

The Scholarship Committee only had 11 applicants with one disqualified for the five \$1,000 scholarships. The recipients were drawn at the banquet.

Treasurer John Bull reported that we ended last year \$58,365.96 in the black and are on track to end the current fiscal year in the black also.

VP NA Rory McConnell reported that we have 15,171 members in 598 chapters.

VP EU Brendan Condon reported that the EC and UK&I made up 3,202 of those members.

There was a discussion on the feasibility of reducing the number of members required to charter a chapter to 6 regular members from the current 10. The majority of the members that spoke were in

favor of reducing the number. For this to go any further, it will require a bylaw amendment to move forward through the normal proposal process to the BOD.

Board of Directors:

President DJ Alvarez reported that the complaint on VA V has been completed but the final report has not been submitted yet.

Office Manager Jana Clark advised that they would be changing vendors for the vests due to some issues with Taylor Made Leathers.

Proposal 2022-0001 Bylaw amendment to add term limits of 2 two-year terms to the International Executive Committee passed (10 yeas, 5 nays) The yeas were RGC, MWRC, TSC, NEC, UK&I, WCC, PP, BOG, VP NA, and VP EU. The nays were GLRC, SRC, EC, TREAS, and SEC. There is some disagreement on when the two-term limit begins, as some believe that it would start with this current term being the first and others believing previously served terms count also. This will probably require a legal opinion.



Proposal 2022-0016 To approve publishing a new constitution and bylaws book with the current updates in the amount of \$525.34 for 250 copies. Passed unanimously.

Proposal 2022-0017 Constitutional amendment to require a completed application be submitted along with necessary documents on any change in employment status and or medical exemptions. This was tabled after discussion for the Bylaw Committee to submit a form for self-declaration of medical exemption.

Proposal 2022-0018 to close the books on the cash reimbursement of \$2,385.05 travel voucher from British Airways for Guy O'Connor's 2020 flights to the international in Ireland. Passed unanimously.

Proposal 2022-0019 Bylaw amendment to bring the verification committee bylaw in sync with the bylaw amendment on term limits. Passed unanimously.

The next meeting is Sept. 14th at 14:00 EST with a deadline of Aug. 14th at 16:00 EST.

Ride with Pride,

Doug Casteel, International Representative
Mid-West Regional Conference
Mwrc.rep@blueknights.org
(314) 412-4449

WEB MASTER REPORT



Welcome to July and summer! Hope everyone had a great and safe 4th of July. For those that missed the Spring Conference up in Grand Forks you missed a terrific time. ND I put on a SUPER conference! The webpages are getting a good look-over this summer so keep updating me with your chapter information and remember to let me know if you have anything you want listed for your chapter. Also remember to let

me know if you have any member transfer onto Heaven I so I can add them to our Heaven I page. Everything you need for the upcoming Fall Conference in St. Joseph, MO is posted on the Events Page including hotel information and a fill-in-the-blank registration form so be sure to visit there and sign up. MO X has been doing a lot of hard work getting ready for us and have an event-filled weekend planned for us. I hope to see you all in St Joseph in September. Until then, stay safe, keep smiling, and keep the rubber down and the shiny side up! Until next time,



Ride with Pride!

Wayne Schwartz
MWRC Webmaster
wayneschwartz@comcast.net

CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE

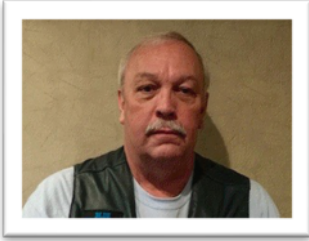
Chapter dues are due. In order to remain a chapter in good standing within the conference and be allowed to vote, each chapter must pay dues in the amount of one dollar per member with a cap of twenty-five dollars per chapter to the conference on a yearly basis.

Please bring your chapter dues to the Fall Conference or mail them to:

Tom Luellen, Secretary Treasurer
2733 E. Battlefield Street # 154
Springfield, MO 65804



SAFETY OFFICER REPORT



The middle of summer is upon us. I hope everyone is enjoying the hot temperature's most of us are having. For those complaining about the heat, just wait a few months and you can start complaining about how cold it is.

The Fall MWRC is coming up fast. It's just a few weeks away. I hope everyone will be able to make it to the Fall 2022 MWRC in Saint Joseph, MO. MO X has been working hard to put on a good time for us. I know they have arranged for me to do a Safety Course and have obtained a few hundred cones for me to use, as well as a large off-site parking lot. They are also working with the St. Joe Safety Council to have free stuff for those who take the class.

Speaking of the class, since we have the space as well as the cones I plan on setting up two courses, one for two-wheel and a second course for three-wheel bikes. The only drawback that I for see will be the time it takes to set up the courses, as well as trying to be on two courses at the same time. So, I am hoping I can get some volunteers to help.

Most of us have been riding for several years, but when was the last time you looked at a motorcycle test below, I have included ten questions that are asked on some of our state motorcycle written tests.

- 1) Stopping in a turn can be difficult because:
 - a. There is decreased traction available for stopping while the bike is leaning.
 - b. The rider is usually focused on the turn and not on braking.
 - c. The brakes do not work when turning.
 - d. You cannot turn the motorcycle if you are applying the brakes.
- 2) As the motorcycle weight moves forward while braking, you:
 - a. Can apply the front brake harder.
 - b. Should lessen the amount of pressure on the front brake.
 - c. Can apply the rear brake harder.
 - d. Lose traction.
- 3) If your motorcycle starts to wobble, it is best to:
 - a. Downshift.
 - b. Accelerate.
 - c. Grip the handlebars firmly and close the throttle gradually.
 - d. Gradually apply the brakes.
- 4) If a driver is following you too closely, you should:
 - a. Flash your brake light before you slow to warn the other driver.
 - b. Accelerate.
 - c. Pull over to the side of the road.
 - d. Slow down.

- 5) _____ is a guarantee that another driver sees you.
- Eye contact.
 - Using a turn signal.
 - Following another vehicle.
 - Nothing.
- 6) When going through a curve, you should:
- Always stay in the same portion of the lane throughout the entire curve.
 - Always stay in the left portion of the lane throughout the entire curve.
 - Always stay in the right portion of the lane throughout the entire curve.
 - Remember the best path, may not follow the curve of the road.
- 7) Riders who do not wear helmets while riding are _____ to die in a crash than riders who do wear helmets.
- Half as likely.
 - Twice as likely.
 - Three times as likely.
 - Just as likely.
- 8) How often should a motorcycle operator check their mirrors?
- Never.
 - Occasionally.
 - Frequently.
 - More often than the amount time spent looking ahead.
- 9) When riding in curves, turning, or entering a highway, the best group formation is:
- Pairs.
 - Single-file.
 - Staggered.
 - Passing.
- 10) A primary cause of single-vehicle motorcycle collisions is:
- Motorcyclists tendency to ride too fast for weather conditions.
 - Motorcyclists turning too wide in a curve or turn.
 - Motorcyclists falling asleep while riding.
 - Motorcyclists running off the road while trying to avoid a collision with another vehicle

So how do you think you did? Do you think you got them all correct? Remember these questions are on the basic motorcycle test given to obtain your motorcycle license.

Rick McCrea
MWRC Safety Officer

The correct answers are as follows:

1) a. 2) a. 3) c. 4) a. 5) d. 6) d. 7) c. 8) c. 9) b. 10) b.

Most of the photos in this issue of the Mid-Knight news were provided by
MO X President Don Tyes.

UPDATE ON THE FALL 2022

The MWRC Fall Conference is just around the corner. Join with us in St. Joseph, Missouri, September 15th – 18th, 2022, for a great time. It will be Missouri X's tenth anniversary. Everyone registered will receive a Blue Knights Missouri X Tenth Anniversary Patch, to commemorate the event. The Conference will be held at The Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, 1201 North Woodbine Road, St. Joseph, MO 64506. The room rate is \$99.00 for double Queen or King. Registration rate is \$89.00 per person which includes two dinners, unlimited adult beverages, snacks, and participation in the Fallen Officers Memorial Ride, Saturday September 17th. T-shirts are \$10.00 with registration. Fillable registration forms are available on the MWRC webpage and there is a link on the MWRC face book page. Call the hotel at 816-901-9600 today to reserve your room. You can contact me at 816-261-7959 if you incur any hotel or registration problems. We are looking forward to having you visit our city. A reminder that hotel rates increase after August 14th, 2022 to regular prices. Be sure to reserve your room(s) before then. Additionally, the Conference registration rates increase on August 15th, 2022. Be sure to get your registrations in to Missouri X prior to that date.



The city of St. Joseph is a great tourist destination. Members will enjoy visiting attractions such as the Axe Factor, Remington Nature Center, The St. Joseph Frontier Casino, Glore Psychological Museum, the Original Pony Express Stables and Museum, Jessie James Home and Museum, the Walter Cronkite Memorial and the Stetson Hat Outlet. Within a one to two

hour ride are the historic towns of Weston, Missouri to the south and Jamesport, Missouri to the northeast. There are also several wineries in the area. Hotel rates are good for the entire week.

We will have raffle prizes available during the conference which will include a tactical shotgun and a handmade quilt. If you plan on attending, we would appreciate you getting your registrations to us.



“Ride with Pride”

Donald R. Tyes, President, MO X
Missouri State Representative

UPDATE ON THE SPRING 2023

The Spring 2023 MWRC Conference is fast approaching and will be held at the Hyatt Regency Coralville Hotel and Conference Center in Coralville, Iowa June 2nd – 4th, 2023. This Conference will be hosted by Iowa's youngest Chapter, the Iowa SIXERS (IA VI).



If you recall when we placed the bid to host the Conference last fall, we said it would be at Honey Creek Resort in Rathbun, Iowa. Well...that didn't work out. We reserved 100 rooms in September. When they reopened for the season in March, they promptly gave away 55 of those rooms to another group and refused to cancel them. So, we had to scramble to find a new venue. Hey, we're good at crisis management.

The new venue is located in the Iowa River Landing neighborhood of Coralville, a suburb of Iowa City. It's the first stop light south of Interstate 80 at exit 242. This venue does have covered parking included with your hotel registration.

The Iowa River Landing is home to several fine shops, restaurants, brewpubs, and attractions. Some of which are Diamond Leaf Jewelers, Von Maur, Trader Joe's, Scratch Cupcakery, Cookies & Dreams (my favorite), 30 Hop, Backpocket Brewing, Tribute Eatery & Bar, Xtream Arena, and the Antique Car Museum of Iowa, just to name a few. Within walking distance along the river trail, is the Iowa River Power Restaurant and numerous other shops along the street.

Within a 5-minute ride, is the University of Iowa, Coral Ridge Mall (with the Children's Museum), and Hawkeye HD. Within a 30-minute ride are Coralville Lake and Fossil Gorge, Cedar Ridge Distillery (home of Slipknot Bourbon), Riverside Casino (great golf course), Kalona Brewery, Kalona Village, Amana Colonies (great shops with Amish and German style food and beverage), the birthplace of President Hoover, and for the Trekkies-Riverside, Iowa (Future birthplace of Captain James T. Kirk, he's due less than ten years from our conference).

For the cigar aficionados, we have invited the owner of Bad Ash Tobacco Company from Springfield, MO to join us and give a cigar rolling demonstration. He will also have cigars available for sale. Oh! Brush up on your ashket ball 😊

We are still working on our ride plan. We want to show off as much of our fine state as we can. Everyone thinks Iowa is flat and all cornfields, but we really do have some very nice riding country. I can't say as much for the roads, but the country is nice.

We are finishing up the registration trying to lock in as low price as possible. In the meantime, you may still reserve your rooms using the following information: HYATT REGENCY CORALVILLE, 300 East 9TH ST, Coralville, IA 52241 (319) 688-4000. Room rate is \$115.00 per night, good through May 11th, 2023. **Group Code: G-MWTE** <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/IOWRC/G-MWTE> For questions, contact the Iowa SIXERS at SEIABKVI@GMAIL.COM

RESTAURANT & SHOPPING GUIDE



STATE REPRESENTATIVE'S

Iowa:	Dave Eyman	BKIARep@gmail.com
Kansas:	Jim Miller	jimmiller@jim-san.com
Manitoba:	Peter Savinkoff	tundrapjs@shaw.ca
Minnesota:	Chris Boerner	cboerner9@aol.com
Missouri:	Don Tyes	bigdude@stjoelive.com
Nebraska:	Frank Bergmark	bikerbergs@charter.net
North Dakota:	VACANT	
Oklahoma:	Tom Ashing	tomashing@cox.net
South Dakota:	Dave Thorsgaard	dq17thor@midco.net



STATE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Before each newsletter, I send out a request to each of the State Representatives asking them to send me an article for the Mid-Knight News. This time, I had 3 State Representatives answer the request.

IOWA:

No report

KANSAS:

Greetings from Kansas. I hope everyone is doing well.

We had a great time at the MWRC Spring 2022 Conference hosted by ND I in Grand Forks, ND. The weather was great, the rides were fun, and seeing everyone again was wonderful. Thank you to ND I for making that happen.

We are looking forward to the MWRC Fall 2022 Conference hosted by MO X in Saint Joseph, MO September 15th – 18th, 2022. I enjoyed the last conference that MO X hosted, and this one promises to be even better. The annual MO X Fallen Officer's Memorial Ride will be Saturday during the conference. I have gone to that several times and it is always a great experience and a good time. I encourage everyone to go the Fall 2022 Conference if you can.

Kansas III will be hosting a cornhole tournament on Saturday, October 15th, 2022. It will be at the R Bar & Patio, 610 Florida Street, Lawrence, KS 66044. It is open to all Blue Knights and our supporters. Even if you don't play in the tournament, please come for the fun. It will start in the afternoon and go late into the evening. There will be food and drink specials all day. We are still working on the details so more information will be coming.

"Ride With Pride"

Jim Miller
Kansas State Rep
Kansas III President

MANITOBA:

No report.

MINNESOTA:

No report.



MISSOURI:



Several weeks ago, members of the Mid-West Regional Conference met in Grand Forks, North Dakota for the Spring Conference.

Representatives attended from across the Midwest and Canada. A fun time was had by all. Missouri Blue Knights were represented by members from Missouri I, Missouri III, and Missouri X. The weather was pleasant and mild, but we did



have a few rain showers. Thanks to the Blue Knights from North Dakota for their hospitality and a grand event. Next up for the MWRC is a trip to St. Joseph, Missouri for the Fall Conference. The Fall Conference will be held September 15th – 18th, at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, 1210 North Woodbine Road, St. Joseph, Missouri. For reservations call (816) 901-9600. Rates are \$99.00 per day. Room rates go back to regular prices on August 14th, 2022, so book before that date. We hope to see you there.

A reminder, Missouri X will hold its annual Fallen Officers Memorial Ride on September 17th, 2022, during the Conference. Let's show up in force to honor these fallen heroes.

Donald R. Tyes, President, MO X
Missouri State Representative, RWP

NEBRASKA:

Nothing to report.

NORTH DAKOTA:

State Representative position open

OKLAHOMA:

Nothing to report.

SOUTH DAKOTA:

Greeting's, from the Black Hills of South Dakota where the skies are blue and the scenery is never ending. Our riding season is in full swing and we are taking every advantage of it that we can.

On May 24th, we had our first of many planned, picnic rides throughout the area. This one was to Sundance, Wyoming with a stops at Aladdin, Wyoming to visit the historic General store there and a short rest, then Deluxe Harley Davidson of Sundance which had just opened up for the season. Some of us made first choice purchases of select items as they were still stocking shelves.

The picnic rides are an attempt to reduce the costs for meals on our rides. Which due to supply issues have increased a lot.



A small group of us made the Spring Mid-West Regional Conference in Grand Forks, in June. I must say they did an awesome job all around. Thank you for your hospitality.

Our group was surprised with the air boat ride, when we did not get a surprise visit from the Creature from the Black Lagoon to jump out and scare us on the middle part of the ride. It was fun just the same!

On June 24th through the 27th, we had our annual Too Early Big Horns run. This year we did it a little different by spending two nights in Worland, Wyoming and riding to Cody, to the many sights in the surrounding area. We split up into three groups to help minimize all the congestion for gas and food stops. We had 20 people this year attend along with our great friends from NE I, Frank, Marsha, Danny and Janelle. Andy brought along some friends also from Nebraska and may have been able to recruit a new member for the NE I chapter, the Chief of Police from Broken Bow, NE.





We also made visits to Heart Mountain Internment Camp for the Japanese during WW II. They have made a lot of additions to their display and it continues to be very interesting and heart breaking at the same time. A short ride on Chief Joseph Highway with the many spectacular views. Short only because we were running out of day light. A visit to Buffalo Bill Dam and Visitors Center.

This is another interesting stop and so much history along with it.

On the return trip home, we stopped at Shell Falls in Shell Canyon. The stream was running much faster than in the past with all the snow and rain earlier this year. They have made improvements with a walkway around the visitor's center to see more of the stream and other falls. The stairways down to the larger falls can still be quite the climb though, personally I enjoy stopping at these falls every time we are there.



We stopped in Ten Sleep, Wyoming for ice cream, pie and coffee or just something cool to drink.

We had a very good time this year as always, saw so many awesome sights, great fellowship made some new friends and strengthened old ones.

Plans are in the works for next year, looking at maybe Laramie, Wyoming as a location to ride out of daily.



I know some of us are planning to make the ride to St. Joseph, MO for the Fall Conference. Hope to see you all there and always Ride with Pride!

Dave Thorsgaard
MWRC State Rep.
BK SD I