

The

# Mid-Knight News

A quarterly publication of the Mid-West Regional Conference of the Blue Knights® International

Summer 2023 issue



## CONFERENCE OFFICERS

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spd846ret@hotmail.com

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EDITOR

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## 2023 International Election Results

President:

**DJ Alvarez 2890**

Rory MacConnell 1711

North America Vice-President:

**Cal Ennals 1888**

Jim Trachta 1483

Secretary:

Karen Borza 2168

**Glenn Wheat 2418**

Treasurer:

**John Bull 4446**

Editor:

Most of the photos in this edition of the Mid-Knight News are from the 2023 Spring MWRC which was hosted by IA-VI.

The deadline for articles for the Fall edition of the Mid-Knight News will be October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



## From the M.W.R.C. Chairman Tom Luellen

As I start this article, it's been about three weeks since we were together in Coralville. A round of applause goes to The Sixers, who put on a good show. Other than the closest freeway interchange being under heavy construction (something they had no control over) it was a great location, with beautiful "sittin' outside of an evening" weather. It makes me look forward to the same thing in Chesterfield in September, as I know the crew at MO-III will take good care of us. Speaking of future meetings, I must take a minute and thank Kansas State Rep. Jim Miller. If you haven't heard, I did a bit of very last-minute cajoling (like, walking from breakfast to the business meeting) and convinced him to volunteer his chapter, KS-III, to host the Spring 2024 MWRC. If you've ever had a hand in putting on a conference, you know that although it is a very rewarding experience, it is a lot of work, especially on relatively short notice. Thanks, Jim, for stepping up!

Also, by now, you should have received your ballot via email to vote for the next crop of international officers. I hope a significant percentage of you take the time to vote. The last time around only about a third of our members voted. I find that sad. I saw an e-mail from the Election Committee Chair a few days after the voting began that over 3000 ballots had already been returned. I hope that means we'll have a better rate of return this time. By the time this goes to print, I will be back from the International Convention in Harrisburg, PA where the results of said election will be announced. Regardless of the results, I want you to remember why we all joined this club in the first place, to ride with our friends and do good works in our local communities. Spend time with your chapter – something as simple as take a group ride to dinner, go to your local bike night, pick a worthy cause and do a poker run, show up for a child in need. I must admit, for a long time I really didn't pay attention to the words in the Blue Knight pledge. But I recently took a closer look and reminded myself of what I am encouraging you to do, to get out and ride in the name of / under the banner of the Blue Knights. We are our own best advertising.

It may seem early, but I'm already looking ahead to 2024 Blue Knight travels. The Spring RGC will be in Springdale, AR, which is less than 30 miles south of Missouri, so several members of my chapter are planning on attending. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention will be back in Maine. Later in 2024, the Fall MWRC will be in Spearfish, SD. What could be better than a whole slew of MWRC Knights loose in the Black Hills for a weekend?

Lastly, I need to remind you that we have a blank proxy letter, tailored to the MWRC, in the Links tab of our website. I understand that sometimes things happen at the last minute and a president might not have time to get the letter filled out, but please make every effort to have a letter for your designee if you can't make it to the conference meeting.

My virtual door is always open, so please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns. Until September, RWP!!

Tom Luellen  
MWRC Chairman  
[Spd846ret@hotmail.com](mailto:Spd846ret@hotmail.com)  
417-860-2633





**From the M.W.R.C.  
Vice-Chairman  
Bobby Clark**

Hello all,

I hope you are all having a great summer and getting a lot of riding in. It appears we are having some sort of heat wave with the

90 plus temps in the midwest. So, please make sure you are drinking plenty of fluids and staying hydrated when you ride. I had a great time at the Spring Conference and the Sixers did a great job putting on the event. If you have not registered for the Fall Conference in Chesterfield, MO yet, please get that done ASAP. Here is all the information for that conference.

## **MWRC Fall 2023 Conference**

To be hosted by MO III  
(Chesterfield, MO)

September 14 - 17, 2023

Host hotel is the [DoubleTree by Hilton – Chesterfield](#)

16625 Swingley Ridge Rd

Chesterfield, MO 63017

636-532-5000

Room rates are \$119.00 per night plus taxes for King rooms

\$129.00 per night plus taxes for Double Queen rooms

Be sure to ask for the Blue Knights MO III rate

Includes full breakfast buffet w/eggs to order

or use this link

<https://group.doubletree.com/rw497e>

Registration is \$85.00 per adult

[Fillable Registration Form](#)

Or go to the MWRC website <http://www.blueknightsmwrc.com/events.html> and download the registration form from there.

Ride safe and hope to see you in Chesterfield!  
RWP!!

Bobby Clark "Top Hat"

[Bobbyc1563@gmail.com](mailto:Bobbyc1563@gmail.com)

216 Lori Lane Council Bluffs, IA 51503

MWRC Vice Chairman



**From the M.W.R.C.  
Secretary / Treasurer  
Duane Potter**

Welcome to July and 100+ degree days. Seems like the last few weeks it's either pouring rain or boiling us here in south central Kansas.

The Spring Conference in Coralville, IA is in the books and the Sixers put on an excellent program. Now we're looking forward to the Fall Conference in Chesterfield, MO, September 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Hope to see everyone there.

At the presidents meeting at the Spring Conference, we had 21 of the 30 chapters represented. During the meeting, Jim Miller, President of KS-III, stepped up and his Chapter has agreed to host the 2024 Spring Conference. There was also discussion on what the MWRC can do to support the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary International Convention next year. The motion was made to put \$1,000.00 towards sponsoring a hospitality night. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved. No monies will be sent to the host chapter until they have a signed contract with the venue.



On the darker side of Conference business, there are still a few, not many, but a few chapters that have not submitted their dues to the MWRC. As a reminder, chapter dues are \$1.00 per member with a cap of \$25.00. Dues can be mailed to:

MWRC  
P.O. Box 71  
Goddard, KS 67052  
Until next time...  
Ride With Pride  
Duane



**From the M.W.R.C.  
International Representative  
Doug Casteel**

Since the last newsletter, I represented you at the Spring Mid-West Regional Conference (MWRC) June 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 4<sup>th</sup> and at the West Coast Conference, July 2<sup>nd</sup> thru July 5<sup>th</sup> in Red Deer, Alberta. I will be at the International Convention in Harrisburg, PA next week, July 16<sup>th</sup> thru 21<sup>st</sup>, to represent you. The information from the convention will be reported in the Fall newsletter, however, I will send an email update at some point after the convention. If you aren't getting my emails, ask your president why he isn't forwarding the information to you.



I reported to you in the last newsletter that during a budget discussion I made a motion that current board members could not submit for travel reimbursement to conferences during the campaign season (January until elections). That was passed by the Board of Directors (BOD) and went into effect on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Treasurer John Bull said we should submit a proposal to amend the expense guidelines and said he would submit something for the next BOD meeting. On the day of the deadline for agenda items, I was informed by John Bull that the Executive Committee refused to allow him to submit a proposal for the agenda. Upon hearing of this, I quickly drafted a proposal and received approval from the MWRC Board to submit it to the agenda. So, it will be heard at the July BOD meeting.

And as a cheap plug, I hope to see you all at the Fall MWRC, which is being hosted by my chapter in Chesterfield, MO. We have great riding in this area and will work hard to show you a good time.

As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Ride with Pride,

Doug Casteel, International Representative  
Mid-West Regional Conference  
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+1 (314) 412-4449

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### **From the M.W.R.C. Web-Master Wayne Schwartz**

Is it just me or does it seem like summer is flying by? I can't believe we are already past the middle of July. I hope everyone is having a great summer and getting in a lot of riding. Before we know it, fall will be here and the leaves will begin falling. Oh well, enough on the weather – time to talk about the web page. Our site is getting a lot of looks and that's a good thing. If anything

has changed within your chapters such as mailing addresses, chapter URL's, or anything else be sure and let me know so I can update your chapter information. Time is running out to sign up for the Fall Conference in Chesterfield, MO. I'm sure MO III is busy getting things ready for us and they will have lots and lots of things for us to do. The hotel information is available on the website on the Events Page and the Registration Form is available as a fillable form. Just fill in your information, print it out and send it on to MO III so you won't miss any of the fun times that are awaiting us all. I hope to have some information posted soon on the 2024 Spring Conference being put on by KS III. I just posted information on next year's International Convention at Sugar Loaf Resort in Maine including a printable Registration Form. If your chapter has any member transfer to Heaven I be sure and let me know so I can add them to our Heaven I Page. Also, if your chapter is putting on an event and you would like to advertise it on the web page be sure to send me the information and I will work with you to get the word out for your event. Hope to see everyone in Chesterfield, MO at the Fall Conference and until then, be sure to stay safe, ride safely and spread the word of the Blue Knights to all! See you soon,



Ride with Pride,  
Wayne Schwartz  
[wayneschwartz@comcast.net](mailto:wayneschwartz@comcast.net)

**From the M.W.R.C.  
Safety Officer  
Scott Grabowski**

Hi everyone. It was nice seeing friends and making new friends at the Spring Conference in Coraville, IA. Unfortunately, we were not able to have access to an area for a safety practice session,

but I'm told we will for the Fall Conference.

With that, who has a rainsuit stored on their motorcycle? If you do, why? Well, just in case it rains while you are out riding, right? Now, who has practiced emergency braking? Why practice? Same reason for that rainsuit, just in case!

Total stopping distance - emergency braking - consists of 3 things. 1, Perception 2, Reaction and 3, Braking.

For 3-wheel motorcycles and trikes, there is usually a front brake lever and a rear brake pedal. To get your motorcycle to stop in the shortest distance, both brakes must be used. Threshold braking will help accomplish this.

Threshold braking is the maximum amount of brake pressure you can use before your tires lock up or ABS engages.

When using the rear brake pedal, the rider wants to firmly press on the rear brake pedal to the threshold point. If your rear tire locks up, continue holding pressure on the pedal until stopped. Releasing the rear brake pedal while the rear tire is locked up could result in a "high side crash" throwing you off the motorcycle.



When using the front brake lever, the rider wants to roll off the throttle, reach, and slowly and progressively squeeze the brake lever. Grabbing the brake lever could lock up the front tire, causing a crash. If the front tire does lock up, the rider wants to release the brake lever and reapply progressive squeezing pressure.

Progressively squeeze – think of holding half an orange and you want to drip juice into a glass. What happens if you quickly squeeze the orange? The juice goes everywhere, and the orange is mush. What happens when you slowly squeeze while applying pressure? The juice drips out. The

same is with the front brake, grabbing it could turn the situation to mush and progressively squeezing could save you from crashing.

Practicing threshold braking can help you achieve maximum braking power in emergency situations, by stopping in a shorter distance. Practicing helps muscle memory and not having this muscle memory, should an emergency braking situation happen, will most likely cause a rider to panic and grab the front brake lever, which locks the front tire causing a crash, or what some say, "laying it down".

### **Practice:**

Find a parking lot, use something to mark as your braking start point. Start out slow, 10 - 15 MPH, and brake in the shortest distance you safely can. Mark that spot, repeat, trying to shorten that distance each time. Once you achieved threshold braking at that speed, increase the speed by 5 MPH or so until you are up to 25 - 30 MPH. Also take note of how different your MC feels/handles stopping faster at higher speeds.

ABS will not stop your motorcycle in a shorter distance than threshold braking but will allow the wheels to keep rolling, potentially preventing a crash.

Threshold braking vs laying it down (you and your motorcycle sliding on the pavement) approximate stopping distances, not including perception and reaction time.

Threshold Braking		(Laying it Down)	
		MC Sliding	Body Sliding
30 MPH	30 feet	66 feet	50 feet
60 MPH	120 feet	266 feet	200 feet

From what I could find, braking distances are about the same for a trike and Can-Am's.

Practice? Be ready in case a situation occurs, or you could possibly lay it down damaging your motorcycle and yourself. The choice is yours.

If you have any questions, email or call / text me.

As always, be safe out there. Hope to see you at the Fall Conference.

RWP  
Ride Safe  
Practice often

Scott Grabowski  
MWRC Safety Officer  
612-814-1960  
mwrc.safety@gmail.com





## Update on the Fall 2023 Conference

It's registration time! **LESS THAN 60 DAYS** until the Fall MWRC.

Your hosts will be the St. Louis Metro Blue Knights – Missouri III.

We are looking forward to hosting our Blue family in a great part of the country and at a uniquely located venue minutes from riding along the tree-lined Missouri River valley. We have sourced a couple of local partners near the hotel who look forward to having us.

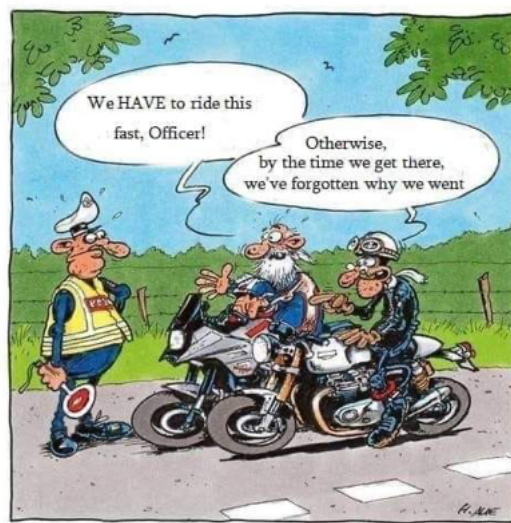
ROCK n' BREWS, the Gene Simmons-owned rock and roll-themed bar and restaurant. LIT CIGAR shop, recently expanded into a 5,000 square foot space just minutes from the hotel. Just this week we secured our Friday night meal, THE INNER FAT KID DINER food truck. We realize there are some other great staples in the St. Louis area to see if you haven't been here before or haven't been in a while.

Like many other areas, distilleries are growing in our area in addition to the St. Louis Beer scene, we will provide a list of ideas at the conference for you. In addition to the Anheuser Busch brewery tour downtown, there are several options to visit for those that like the craft beer / brewery atmosphere. The best riding revolves around the nearby wine country twists and turns. We will do guided rides through wine country each day and alternative rides will be posted at registration. If there is someplace you know about or have heard about and want a local member to help coordinate something, we will work with you to make it happen. Don't hesitate to reach out ahead of time and we will help make it happen.



If the ride across Missouri is plenty of riding, you are welcome to hang out at the hotel and take advantage of the many amenities it offers. The large outdoor pool is a great place to relax. The Double Tree Hotel offers free shuttle service locally for any short trip assistance you may want to take advantage of. Our main goal is to provide a great event to allow friends to come together, fellowship, and have a great time. Please don't hesitate to make your room reservation and more importantly, send in your registration form. This will help us to plan on our end to be best prepared to host all of you.

RWP – Jeff Cook





## Mid-Knight News Requirements

The Mid-Knight News is published quarterly. The deadlines are January 15<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup>, with the projected publication being February 1<sup>st</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, August 1<sup>st</sup>, and November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Any member of the Blue Knights MWRC can submit an article for publication. However, the article must be sent from the Chapter Corporate e-mail. This ensures chapter approval of the article and it's contents.

Article's should be submitted in MS "WORD" in Arial 12 - point with justified left and right margins. Please try to limit your article to one page. Photos may also be submitted, but please send them in a "jpeg" format.



## CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE

In order for a chapter to remain in good standing with the Conference, each chapter must pay dues of one dollar per member with a maximum of twenty-five to the Conference on an annual basis.

The dues must be paid before the chapter will be allowed to vote at the MWRC business meeting.

You can mail your dues to:

Mid-West Regional Conference  
P.O. Box 73,  
Goddard, KS 67052



## **MWRC State Representatives Contact Information**

Iowa:	Dave Eyman	<a href="mailto:BKIARep@gmail.com">BKIARep@gmail.com</a>
Kansas:	Jim Miller	<a href="mailto:jimmiller@jim-san.com">jimmiller@jim-san.com</a>
Manitoba:	Peter Savinkoff	<a href="mailto:tundrapjs@shaw.ca">tundrapjs@shaw.ca</a>
Minnesota:	Chris Boerner	<a href="mailto:cboerner9@aol.com">cboerner9@aol.com</a>
Missouri:	Don Tyes	<a href="mailto:bigdude@stjoelive.com">bigdude@stjoelive.com</a>
Nebraska:	Frank Bergmark	<a href="mailto:bikerbergs@charter.net">bikerbergs@charter.net</a>
North Dakota:	VACANT	
Oklahoma:	Tom Ashing	<a href="mailto:tomashing@cox.net">tomashing@cox.net</a>
South Dakota:	Dave Thorsgaard	<a href="mailto:dg17thor@midco.net">dg17thor@midco.net</a>

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## **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.

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### **Iowa Representative Dave Eyman**

No report

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### **Kansas Representative Jim Miller**

Kansas III will be hosting the Blue Knights Midwest Regional Conference Spring 2024 Conference in Lawrence, KS June 20-23, 2024. It will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Lawrence. Room rates are \$149.00 (King or 2 Queens, 1 to 4 people) per night plus tax. Normal room rates are \$249 per night (with breakfast not included). Your \$149 rate includes a daily breakfast buffet for up to four people. Registration is \$95 per person. We will have a 24-hour hospitality room, live music, bikini bike wash, and much more. Proceeds from the conference will go to benefit Concerns of Police Survivors.

The conference information/registration packet should be available on the MWRC webpage around August 1, 2023.

“Ride With Pride”

Jim Miller  
Kansas State Rep  
Kansas III President

## **Manitoba Representative Peter Savinkoff**

No report

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## **Minnesota Representative Chris Boerner**

Nothing to report

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## **Missouri Representative Don Tyes**

Nothing to report

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## **Nebraska Representative Frank Bergmark**

Nebraska I is trying to have weekly Saturday night supper rides and enjoying the decent riding weather.

The trip back from Spring Conference through Iowa was great and then off and on rain through Nebraska.

Thanks to Kansas for stepping up and doing Spring 2024. Looking forward to it, along with Fall 2023 in Missouri and Fall 2024 in South Dakota. All should have some great riding. If you've been a Blue Knight and it's been awhile since you've been to a conference any or all of these I'm sure will be great.

Frank

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## **North Dakota Representative VACANT**

Representative wanted  
If interested, contact  
MWRC Chairman Tom Luellen



## Oklahoma Representative Tom Ashing

Nothing to report

## South Dakota Representative Dave Thorsgaard

Greetings from South Dakota One! First thing I would like to do is a tip of the hat to the Iowa Sixers for a great Spring Conference. The riding was great, other than the rain on Friday it was very well planned and a great time all around. Sadly, when we returned, we learned of the loss of one of our founding members, Sonny Speer. Sonny was a good man, mentor and friend. He will be missed by many. Our chapter, at Sonny's request, were pall bearers and did the lead escort to the National Cemetery. Sonny served with the US Air Force and the Rapid City PD and retired as a detective. Sonny was also an active member of the Police Officers Association. He will be missed by many. Rest in peace my friend.



On a happier note, Kirby Brouillard, received his 20-year pin and certificate for membership with the Blue Knights SD-I. I have added a photo of Kirby and a newspaper clip of Kirby on the job in 1990. Congratulations Kirby.



SD-I has been riding since our last newsletter. Shortly after the return from Coralville, some of our members did our annual June ride. It was not our usual Big Horns Run, they made their way to Laramie, WY. Took in the Snowy Mt range, Flaming Gorge and a few other sights.

We are still working on hosting the 2024 Fall Conference. Stay tuned for more details!

(To Be Continued)



*Lt. Kirby Brouillard, Commander of the MCSO Motorcycle Unit, demonstrates a DUII traffic stop. Motorcycle patrol officers use high-tech, passive alcohol sensing devices, known as PAS, to aid in detecting drunk drivers. The device alerts to ethanol, found in alcoholic beverages, and gives the officer probable cause to investigate for drunk driving. The officers will call for patrol cars to transport drunk drivers to jail.*

# STANDING RULES FOR THE MWRC



1. Carrying firearms at MWRC events after consuming alcoholic beverages is prohibited. Event hosts are required to provide secure storage for firearms if requested by any attendee.

2. All members are entitled to make motions and participate in discussions during Conference meetings. However, only the President (or Regular Member appointed by the President) of each MWRC Chapter in good standing will be allowed to vote on items of business and candidates for office at Conference meetings. Any Chapter which has not paid its annual dues shall not be considered in good standing.



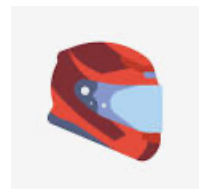
3. MWRC officers shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer, and International Representative. The officers shall serve two (2) year terms and shall be elected at the Fall Conference meeting during even numbered years. Candidates must declare (in writing) the office they seek to the MWRC Secretary/Treasurer prior to the adjournment of the Spring Conference meeting of the election year. No later than August 1<sup>st</sup> of the election year the MWRC Secretary/Treasurer will provide the President of each MWRC Chapter with a list of the candidates for each office. This is meant to allow the Chapter President to confer with his membership prior to the voting.

4. Each Chapter in the MWRC shall pay annual dues to the Conference in the amount of \$1.00 (US) per chapter member, up to a maximum of \$25.00 (US) per year.



5. Bids to host MWRC conferences may be accepted up to two (2) years in advance.

6. All participants in parades or group rides, at any Blue Knights® Midwest Regional Conference event, must wear an approved motorcycle helmet.



7. The MWRC board will notify any active chapter within 50 miles prior to authorizing a charter to any new chapter, however final determination and approval will reside with the board