

The

# Mid-Knight News

A quarterly publication of the Mid-West Regional Conference of the Blue Knights® International  
Winter 2025 issue



## CONFERENCE OFFICERS

### CHAIRMAN

**Tom Luellen**

spd846ret@hotmail.com

### VICE-CHAIRMAN

**Mark Smoot**

msmoot3@gmail.com

### INTERIM SECRETARY TREASURER

**Lloyd Youel**

Lloyd.youel@gmail.com

### INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

**Doug Casteel**

Dougbkmo3@charter.net

### WEB-MASTER

**Wayne Schwartz**

wayneschwartz@comcast.net

### SAFETY OFFICER

**Scott Grabowski**

mwrc.safety@gmail.com

### EDITOR

**Rick McCrea**

rickandtic@icloud.com

*Editor:*

*Happy New Year!!*

*We have now made it to the second quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Here is hoping that it is better than the first quarter.*

*As I am sure everyone is aware by now, Conference Secretary / Treasurer Duane Potter, suffered a stroke back in November. The last information I have is that he is now home and is on the long road to recovery. So, the Conference has appointed Lloyd Youel to be the interim Secretary / Treasurer.*

The Conference address will remain the same, so chapter dues can be mailed to:

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

*Remember chapter dues are one dollar per member with a \$25.00 cap per chapter.*

*Wayne has posted information on both the Spring Business meeting and Fall Conference on the web-page. Room reservations are being accepted for both. The Spring Business meeting is in Lawrence, KS July 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. The Fall Conference is September 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> in Rochester, MN. Hope to see everyone at one or both of the events.*

*Also, remember the International Convention is being held in Moi, Belgium from June 29th to July 4<sup>th</sup>.*

*If you can not wait until summer to see everyone, SD-I is hosting a Winter Blahs get together in Spearfish, SD on February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. As always, information is available on the Conference Web-page.*

*Be careful ride safe*

*Rick*



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

Greetings, sisters and brothers of the MWRC. After a couple false starts, winter finally socked us here in southwest MO. Very cold temperatures, ice, several inches of snow. Fortunately, Mother Nature is a little fickle in this part of the world so we'll, most likely, see a day or two of 60 and sunny sometime soon. Odds are there will be some motorcycling on that day, maybe for a burger and a beer.

If you had not yet heard, MWRC Secretary / Treasurer Duane Potter, suffered a stroke around the first of November. He spent several weeks between the hospital and a rehab facility and finally got to go home around the 10<sup>th</sup> of January. He still has a long road ahead, involving a lot of physical therapy and could use all the thoughts, prayers, well wishes, incantations, dances, spells, or whatever you can muster. After a little bit of wait and see and then some discussion, I proposed to the rest of the executive board that we appoint an interim Secretary / Treasurer until Duane can resume his duties. None of us were happy to have to do this, but in the interest of club business, we felt it was the best course of action. Please welcome Lloyd Youel, President of KS V, as your interim Secretary / Treasurer. We chose Lloyd for several reasons, not the least of which was geography. I know he'll grab the reins with both hands and take care of club business.

On a happier note, I am very much looking forward to the International Convention in Belgium. I'll be tagging along on a post-convention ride planned by my good friend EC Intl Rep. Koen Hutse which will be my first time to ride in Europe. I'd be lying if I didn't admit I am pretty stoked about it.

I also need to say thanks again to KS III and MN IV and MN I, for stepping up to host our two meetings this year. Lawrence, KS is always a good time and Rochester, MN in September should be beautiful.

A couple of other things to remind you of. There is a poll up on the International Website about the Sword and Shield. Log in to the Members Only section and vote if you want to continue with it as is, change to lesser issues per year, publish it on-line only, or whatever your preference is. While you're there, double check that your email address is correct. This is an election year and your ballot will go to whatever email address is listed for you. The members choose the club's leaders, please be a part of that.

My virtual door is always open, so please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns. Until then, we'll see you down the road and....

RWP!

Tom Luellen  
MWRC Chairman  
[spd846ret@hotmail.com](mailto:spd846ret@hotmail.com)  
417-860-2633





**From the M.W.R.C.  
Vice-Chairman  
Mark Smoot**

Happy New Year! I hope y'all had a pleasant holiday season and received lots of cool accessories for your ride. I'll be sporting mine at the Spring Business Meeting. Meet me there and show yours off.

It's the time of year we hate the most. The holidays are over and it's not the greatest weather for riding. Now is the time to get your baby all shined up and ready to dazzle for the next nice day. If the garage is too cold, pull it into the living room, your wife will understand. Riding season will be here in less than 60 days! I'm thinking positive!

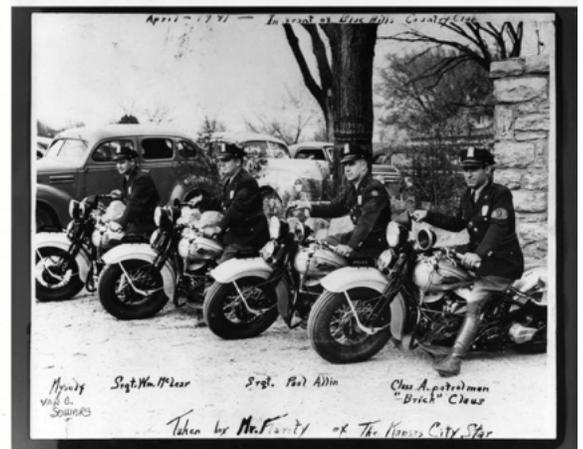
It's also that time of year when dues are due. Most chapters are trying to get their members to cough up a few bucks so they can pay International dues by the end of this month. This is when we find out how many returning members we have. Every chapter has a member who hasn't been around much over the past year. Do you know why? Think about how much you communicate with your fellow chapter members. I'm as guilty of this as anyone. There is just so much going on in our lives, we tend to focus inward. Take a minute to reach out to a Brother or Sister and let them know you're thinking about them. Maybe that's all they need to motivate them to get involved.

I still challenge you to invite a non-member LEO rider to your winter gatherings and get to know them in the off season. Get them excited to join you on the first spring ride. You may end up riding next to a future International President.

I'm also still taking input on what has, or has not, worked with your recruitment/retention plans. Let me know. Give me a good idea to steal...uh share. I really want to hear from you! Feel free to call, text, or email me with your thoughts.

I'm looking forward to seeing y'all in Kansas!

Ride With Pride  
Mark Smoot  
641-226-0749  
[msmoot3@gmail.com](mailto:msmoot3@gmail.com)





**From the M.W.R.C.  
Interim  
Secretary / Treasurer  
Lloyd Youel**

Lloyd Youel, your Interim Secretary / Treasurer here. I hope everyone had a great holiday season!! If everyone did not see my Facebook post, Duane got out of the hospital after the first of the year, so he is back home now. He still has

mobility and speech issues as well. Continued prayers for a full recovery are appreciated. As a reminder that dues to the Conference are due as well as your chapter dues to International. The dues to the conference are \$1.00 per member, \$25.00 maximum. The way this year has been going, July will be here rapidly and so will the first Presidents Business Meeting that Kansas III is hosting. If anyone needs to get in touch with me in the mean time, my cell phone number is 316-737-4942 and my email address is [lloyd.youel@gmail.com](mailto:lloyd.youel@gmail.com). Looking forward to seeing everyone in July and then again in September in Minnesota.

Ride with Pride,  
Lloyd Youel  
Interim Secretary



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

Since the last newsletter, I have represented you at the Blue Knights® International Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom. It was a marathon 6

hour meeting due to going over the budget, which took some drastic cuts to stay balanced due to our falling membership numbers. On a good note, we ended the 2024FY with a \$25,619.54 surplus.

Here are the highlights of the International Board of Directors Meeting:

**Webmaster:** Clean out your chapter mailboxes.

**Sword and Shield Magazine:** There was a discussion about reducing the number of issues from 4 to 3 as a cost cutting measure. Each member has an opportunity to vote in a poll on the International website (members page) to express their opinion on how to move forward with the magazine, which makes up approximately one fifth of the budget. The poll runs from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> thru Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. Please take a couple of minutes to take the poll.

**Election Committee:** Be sure to check your email addresses closely when processing your renewals as they will be needed for the elections. Department or company addresses cannot be used due to security reasons, so a personal email address must be used. We unanimously voted to use Election Trust to handle our electronic election for 2025 at a cost of \$6200 which is the same as the election from 2 years ago.

**Headquarters Committee:** Current account balance is \$89,687.65 and there was discussion on starting the paving brick program again.

**VP North America:** The current membership numbers will be in his written report of the BOD Meeting minutes.

**VP Europe, United Kingdom, and Ireland:** There is still a helping hands campaign going on for Ukraine. Please consider making donations through the European Conference.

**President:** Requested the BOD affirm his appointment of Jim Jackson as the International Safety Officer. The Florida lawsuit is still going on and DJ will be deposed via zoom in the near future.

**Office Manager:** Be sure to print off your documents when you do your renewals, so you have all the forms necessary and nothing gets missed.

**Board of Governors:** the special fund has \$281,000

**Treasurer:** We approved the 2025 budget with some deep cuts (\$49,000.00) to have a balance of \$682.27 in the black. Some of the highlights were: the International is going to get out of the vest selling business and sell the current stock at a sharp discount of \$85.00; Reduce Air and Vehicle Travel to \$13,000.00 from \$15,000.00; Cut the scholarships from 5 to 3 \$1000.00 scholarships; The BOD will pay their own registration fees for the International Convention; The employees will receive a 4% cost of living raise; \$70,000.00 was earmarked to be removed from savings for legal fees if needed; The president's entertainment budget of \$150.00 for conferences was cut except for the \$250.00 for the international; Eliminate the president's meal expense when traveling to and from conferences; Eliminate travel expenses for the Secretary, Treasurer, and VP's for a \$8,000.00 savings.

**Proposal 2024-0005** To change the constitution regarding Honorary Members to allow 1 honorary for every 8 members rather than the current 10. The proposal failed with 5 yeas and 11 nays. With me voting against, because there was another proposal that better fit the ideal of helping a small chapter under 10 members being able to add an honorary member.

**Proposal 2024-0006** To change the constitution regarding Honorary Members to allow a chapter with 8-19 members to have an honorary member and then one for every 10 members after that. That motion passed with 15 yeas and 1 nay, with me voting in favor.

**Proposal 2024-0007** To require Regular Members to own a motorcycle when applying for membership rather than the current requirement to obtain one within 6 months. The proposal failed with 7 yeas and 9 nays, with me voting in favor.

**Proposal 2024-0008** To require Associate Members to own a motorcycle when applying for membership rather than the current requirement to obtain one within 6 months. The proposal was withdrawn.

The next BOD meeting will be Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 1:00 PM ET and the agenda items will be due no later than Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 4:00 PM ET.

As always, if you have any questions or I can help with something, I am available via the contact information listed below.

Ride with Pride,

Doug Casteel, International Representative  
Mid-West Regional Conference  
[Mwrc.rep@blueknights.org](mailto:Mwrc.rep@blueknights.org)  
+1 (314) 412-4449



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

Welcome to 2025! Here we are beginning another new year and I hope it is the best ever for you. The website is going gangbusters with lots of new content. Since the last newsletter I've added events from SD I with their Winter Blahs in

February and their lunch get-together during Sturgis in August. I have also added information on both the Spring MWRC Business meeting in Kansas in July and the Fall MWRC Conference being held in Rochester, MN in September. There are fillable

Registration Forms for both events and hotel information posted. Be sure to check it all out and plan to attend. With the new year usually comes chapter elections which occasionally garners new chapter officers and new mailing addresses. If that is the case with your chapter, be sure to let me know of any changes so I can update your chapter's information. As always, if you have had a member transfer on to Heaven I, be sure to let me know, so I can add them to our Heaven I page. I hope to see you all at future upcoming events and until then, Stay Safe and as always,

Ride with Pride,

Wayne Schwartz  
MWRC Webmaster  
wayneschwartz@comcast.net



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

Hello everyone it was great to see all of you at the MWRC 2024 Fall Conference in Spearfish. What a great area for riding. For those that could not make it, I hope to see you at the 2025 Business meeting or the 2025

MWRC Fall Conference in Rochester, MN, September 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Mark your calendars and get your registration in!

It's winter again and most of us are staring out our windows counting the days until we can ride again. Speaking of winter, in last winter's article I asked you to come up with 3 things you can do to become a better rider for the upcoming riding season. How many of you thought about this and then actually followed through with it?

As for me, I participated in 3 riding courses, I made a point to wear all my gear, all the time (ATGATT) and I made sure my tires were properly inflated for every ride.

As I look ahead to the 2025 season, I am already thinking of 3 new ways to improve my riding. What about you? What are you going to focus on to make the season safer and more enjoyable?

Are you stuck? Here are a few suggestions. Wear your gear, even if it's just wearing a helmet, studies show that wearing a helmet reduces your chance of death in a MC crash by 34%. That's a significant number that could make a difference.

Practice more often. Practice evasive maneuvers or emergency stopping techniques. Now's the time to do it—before you are faced with a real life situation. The time to practice is not when you are faced with an emergency situation. You might also take a riding course or check your T-CLOCS more often.

I would like to hear about your experiences! Whatever goals or improvements you set for yourself, stick with them. The results will speak for themselves.

Until next time, RWP Ride Safe and Practice Often...

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

## Update on the Spring 2025 Business Meeting

As president of Kansas III, I would like to invite the MWRC Presidents, members and family to our 2025 Midwest Regional Conference Business meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>. Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 200 McDonald Drive, Lawrence Kansas, 66044

The registration fee is \$50.00 per person through July 1<sup>st</sup> and \$75.00 after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Your registration fee includes, hospitality room Friday and Saturday nights (beer and snacks provided) 4:00 pm - 12:00 am. The business meeting will be held at the hotel on Saturday morning at 9:00 am. Lunch ride after the business meeting to Louisburg KS (lunch on your own). Hot Breakfast buffet Saturday and Sunday morning included with your registration fee. We will be selling Conference shirts available only through mail when registering before July 1<sup>st</sup>. We also have a drawing for a handgun during the Conference. We are looking forward to seeing our brothers and sisters at the Conference. Any questions, please call me (785) 615-9266 or email me at [munderbkks3@gmail.com](mailto:munderbkks3@gmail.com)

Be Safe and RWP

Mike Underwood

KS III President

## Update on the Fall 2025 Conference

RWP.... Rolling into Rochester

The 2025 MWRC Fall Conference is coming together in Rochester, Minnesota to make it a fun event for all. The planning committee and workers are hard at it to bring it to life. The registration went up in the events section of the MWRC Website on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Some guided and self-guided rides are being planned.

We chose the Best Western because of the attached Empire Event Center, its large pool and hot tub, as well



as a wading pool, every room has a refrigerator and microwave, their great customer service, the attached Wildwood Sports Bar and Grill and gas is available next to the hotel.

We chose this area of Minnesota for several reasons. You don't have to drive through the big cities of St. Paul or Minneapolis. The large Apache Mall is just block's away. The area has some great riding roads and nearby destinations such as the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, MN. who just recently was instrumental in making the Bald Eagle the official national bird. (and you thought it already was) Lanesboro, MN in the Minnesota Amish country may be another destination. Austin, MN has the SPAM Museum. Back Home Harley-Davidson and Cycle City which deals Honda, Suzuki, Kawasaki, KTM and Yamaha brands are nearby.

The registration gives you the opportunity to order T-shirts and choose the banquet meal of your choice including Walleye, Pork or Chicken as well as a vegetarian / gluten free upon request for your dietary concerns. There's going to be a Friday night meal as well, and raffles and 50 / 50 as usual. Hospitality room will be open until midnight on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

This is the only traditional Conference in the MWRC this year, so come out and enjoy what Minnesota offers in the "Land of 10,000 Lakes." You won't regret it.

The registration page in the MWRC events section has an easy click on hotel link for our \$89.00, plus tax, standard rooms. It takes you directly to the Blue Knights pricing. No hassle in explaining to a central phone number what rates you should receive.

We would love to fill this conference to the max. We look forward to seeing everyone. And for all of you in the MWRC Conference and beyond, who haven't been to a conference before, this is a great time to get on a great ride and meet and greet other Blue Knights members. Remember, strangers are just friends you haven't met.

So, get your hotel reservations made soon and your registration into Wayne Schwartz quickly.

Ride with Pride.  
Your Minnesota Blue Knights Chapters

---

## **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 its contents.

Articles 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>

### 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.

---

#### Iowa Representative Dave Eyman

No response



## **Kansas Representative Jim Miller**

I hope everyone is doing well. We are just trying to survive the winter. Our low temperatures have been well below normal. And to make things worse, we have had more snow than usual. The most recent storm that moved through Lawrence, KS dumped 16 - 18" of snow, with an additional 3 - 4" two days later. Spring cannot get here soon enough!

On a personal note, I will not be able to attend the upcoming MWRC Business Meeting in Lawrence, KS. I will be out-of-town at a family reunion. I am disappointed that I will miss seeing everyone and I look forward to seeing everyone next time.

"Ride With Pride"

Jim Miller  
Kansas State Rep

---

## **Manitoba Representative Peter Savinkoff**

No report

---

## **Minnesota Representative Chris Boerner**

No report

---

## **Missouri Representative Don Tyes**

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. With the riding season over for most of us until spring, members are encouraged to get together and enjoy the many sporting events and shows that occur during this time of year. I know I like to go to the gun shows and lawn and garden shows. Whatever your pleasure stay active and get out of the house.

We also need to keep pushing forward and continue to build on our Brother / Sisterhood. Giving to others and sharing with those who are less fortunate is in our nature and our creed. If you know someone who would make a good Blue Knight, reach out. Sometimes that's all it takes.

Don't forget about the Spring Business Meeting in July 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, hosted by Kansas III, at the Doubletree by Hilton, 200 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, Kansas. Telephone number 785-841-7077.

I hope to see you all there.  
Ride with Pride  
Donald R. Tyes, MO X  
Missouri State Representative

## **Nebraska Representative Frank Bergmark**

Nothing new in Nebraska. Looking forward to Winter Blahs in Spearfish.

Frank Bergmark  
President NE I

---

## **North Dakota Representative VACANT**

Representative wanted  
If interested, contact  
MWRC Chairman Tom Luellen

---

## **Oklahoma Representative Tom Ashing**

No response

---

## **South Dakota Representative Dave Thorsgaard**

Happy New Year to ALL of our Blue Knights brothers and sisters from South Dakota !!

As I write this article, I'm happy to say we are near the half way mark of winter, even though the coldest part of the season is yet to come.

With that said, I will report to you that the Blue Knights South Dakota I, have been busy with our annual charitable events with the Back Pack program for Feeding South Dakota, Christmas gifts and needed items for the children in the behavioral unit for Monument Health. This year, we were able to give a little extra from the special items we raffled off at the Fall Conference and we have to thank all of you that made it special for these kids. THANK YOU!

We have put together another BLAH's event this year in February and a lunch get together during the Sturgis Rally in August, both of these events are on the MWRC web site in the events section.

Many of us will be attending the Spring Business Meeting in Lawrence, KS and the Fall Conference in Rochester, MN. Looking forward to seeing many of you at some of these upcoming events.

Ride With Pride!  
Dave Thorsgaard  
MWRC State Representative  
BK SD I

# 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 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