The

Mid-Knight News

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

Winter 2026 issue

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Editor:

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and that Santa brought you many new toys and that the New Year will bring you everything that Santa didn't.

I want to congratulate our newest chapter KS-IX, on their official charter. KS-IX, is located in the Northeast part of Kansas in Hiawatha.

Well, here it is the middle of January, this has been a strange winter in the Ozark's. We have had a few very cold days but for the most part, the temperatures have been warm. I was able to go for a nice ride on Christmas day in just my shirt sleeves. I was also able to go for a ride on New Year's Day again with warm temps. Unlike those in the north part of the Conference, we have had very little snow.

The Spring Business meeting is set for June 12th and 13th, 2026, it will be held at the Fairfield Inn, in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

The Fall Conference will be hosted by NE-II, in Bellevue, NE a suburb of Omaha from September 10th to the 12th. This is also the 30th anniversary of NE-II. The host hotel will be Courtyard by Marriott Bellevue.

For more information on both Conferences see their respective articles later in this newsletter.

On a sad note, the M.W.R.C. Web Master has decided to retire from his position. Wayne started the M.W.R.C. web page over 20 years ago when web pages, were just becoming a thing. I know Wayne has put a lot of time and effort into it. Wayne also helps me with the Mid-Knight News, and publishes it on the web page so members have easy access. I am sure someone out there has the expertise to set us up a new web page and continue in Wayne's foot prints in the near future.

I hope Wayne the best in his retirement.

Stay Safe
Rick

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

Happy New Year sports fans! So far, old man winter has yet to really make an appearance here in southwest MO. Case in point, I had to work on Christmas Day. It was going to be 70 degrees, so I got the bike out and rode in. It was a nice treat. However, a week later we were at my folk's place in the mountains of Colorado and got our first dose of really cold weather for the year. It was a gentle reminder of what is to come. I'm sure we'll see it here soon enough.

Right after the last newsletter was published, I had the pleasure of attending the patch party for the newly formed KS-IX. Congrats again to them and I look forward to their first appearance in Iowa in June.

As you may have seen on our MWRC website, and I'm sure will read about later in this newsletter, Brother Wayne Schwartz, has decided it is time to step down as MWRC Webmaster. Wayne built our site from the ground up in the days before all the help / do it yourself aids, requiring a great deal of effort and learning. If you've been at our meetings anytime recently you've heard me say, I think it's the best Knights site out there. So, many thanks and job well done, Wayne

I've been thinking a lot lately about our membership. I know too many who have health concerns. Please remember your sisters and brothers. Please check on them. Make time for a quick call. Make time for a trip for lunch or a cup of coffee. Make the time. I am as guilty as anyone for not taking the time. We all need to do better.

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

RWP!

Tom Luellen
MWRC Chairman
spd846ret@hotmail.com
417-860-2633

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

Happy New Year, Brothers and Sisters!
I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Once you've installed all the new accessories you got for Christmas, hit the road for some awesome 2026 fellowship with fellow Blue Knights around the world, or at least across the country.

Kristie and I will be at the RGC in May, we're hosting the MWRC in June, then attending International in July, and the MWRC in September. We're also working on attending the SRC in Myrtle Beach. I'm looking forward to seeing you at one, or all of these.

In case you haven't heard. MWRC has a new chapter. Please welcome KS-IX, from Hiawatha, KS. Welcome to the Brotherhood KS-IX!

It's a new year. Many people like to make New Year's resolutions or set new goals for themselves this time of year. I'm asking you to make a goal for yourself. Work on bringing in a new member. It doesn't have to be a new member for your Chapter, just a new Blue Knight. Keep an application on your bike and during your many rides this year, hand out at least one.

EVERY outing is an opportunity to meet a potential new member. Be ready to talk about our great organization and invite someone to join the fun. Every cop is a potential new member. If you attend an event where an officer is doing traffic control, or you happen to meet one on the side of the road, during a ride, turn their stop into yours and have them sign the application. 😉 Have fun doing what you love. Others who love the same things will take notice.

Ride With Pride and share the excitement!

Mark Smoot
641-226-0749
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 and enjoyed time with their families!! It's that time of year for the MWRC dues. The dues are $1.00 per member and max out at $25.00 for chapters with more than 25 members. The dues can be sent to my home address, 9623 S Broadway St, Peck, KS, 67120 this has also been changed on the MWRC website as well. Remember to vote at the business meeting, your dues need to be paid prior to the meeting. If you have questions about your dues, my cell phone number is 316-737-4942 and my email address is lloyd.youel@gmail.com.

Ride with Pride,
Lloyd Youel
Interim Secretary

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

Since our last newsletter, I have represented you via Zoom at the International Budget Meeting in November and the International Board of Directors (BOD) meeting in December as well as a Special Meeting for an Article X appeal in January. Here are the highlights of the 4-hour December International BOD Meeting.

International Safety Officer Jim Jackson: is doing No Zone Truck Training along with Ryder Truck Rentals, Reviewing the Group Riding Handbook, and looking at creating an International Ride Waiver.

Sword and Shield – DJ Alvarez advised that Kristin Gracy would be taking over as the publisher with the passing of Randy Gracy. There will be a slight delay of a couple of weeks to get this next edition of the magazine out.

International Webmaster – Joe Ball advised that the online renewals are available on the website.

Treasurer Brian Arnold – we discussed the 2024 International Financials (Mol, BE) at length and determined that the chapter would need to submit a check for $4,250.00 in excess proceeds to the International.

North American Vice President Cal Ennals – Submitted a new recruitment video to the BOD to be accepted as the official recruitment video and have it placed on the international website. After some discussion it was decided to table the matter until some tweaks were made.

President Russ Harper – requested a motion to waive the dues for the Ukrainian chapter, as we have done during the war. The motion was made and passed unanimously. We then went into executive session to discuss a complaint in the NEC and another complaint in the TSC.

Board of Governors Mark Howard – May 1st is the deadline to submit a bid to host the 2028 International Convention. There hasn't been anyone indicate interest yet.

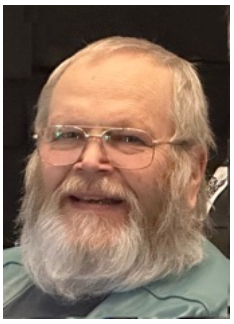
Office Manager Jana Clark – advised to get your renewals in by January 31st to avoid late fees.

Proposal 2025-0010 to remove the 6-month waiver for owning a motorcycle at the time of application. The motion passed with 11 yeas and 4 nays, with me voting in favor. This is a constitutional change and will not go into effect until it is ratified at the next International General Membership Meeting.

The next meeting will be on February 4th, 2026, at 10:00 hours EST and agenda items are due by January 5th, 2026, at 16:00 hours EST.

If you have questions or need help on something don't hesitate to reach out to me.
Ride with Pride,

Doug Casteel, MWRC Int'l Rep
mwrc.rep@blueknights.org
(314) 412-4449



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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

With profound regret and reluctance, I announce 12-29-25 that I will be discontinuing the MWRC Regional Conference website effective with the conclusion of its current web hosting period (6-3-26). Several factors contribute to this decision, but the primary ones are my declining health and the obsolescence of the software utilized for the website's creation and maintenance.

This website was established on 3-15-05 with the invaluable assistance of numerous individuals whose names I cannot enumerate here. I extend my sincere gratitude to each of them for their unwavering support in the creation and upkeep of this website over the past two decades. Over the recent years, updating certain information has proven to be a significant undertaking

The information contained on the website is exclusively owned and maintained by me (as indicated in the fine print at the bottom of the Home page). This information will remain accessible on the site until the specified end date and can be readily copied by anyone who desires it. As I understand it, upon the expiration of the hosting period, the website will cease to be available, and access to any of the information will likely be lost

Given the MWRC's membership of over 550 members, I am confident that there exists an individual within the organization who possesses the expertise to establish and manage a new website.

The domain name or URL (www.mwrcblueknightsmwrc.com) is owned by me and has always been paid for by myself. The Conference has never paid anything of this and at this time I am uncertain if I will keep it or not.

Ride with Pride,

Wayne Schwartz
MWRC Webmaster

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

If you crash your motorcycle, does it really matter whose fault it was?

At the end of the day, your bike is damaged—and more importantly, your body and mental state may be affected as well. As riders, there are things we can do to reduce the risk of crashes and minimize injuries. We can ride more safely, stay within our abilities, and make ourselves more visible to other drivers.

Maintain proper following distance.

Give yourself plenty of room behind the vehicle in front of you. If that vehicle suddenly slams on the brakes, you won't have to do the same. This extra space also gives vehicles behind you more time to slow or stop safely.

Practice emergency braking.

When a car suddenly turns in front of you is not the time to learn how to brake. Panicking and grabbing the front brake can cause you to "lay it down"—which is still a crash. Sliding on your side usually results in more damage and injury than controlled braking. With proper practice, muscle memory can kick in, allowing you to use threshold braking to slow or stop in a much shorter distance.

Use the 2 – 4 - 12 second rule.

Follow at least 2 seconds behind the vehicle in front of you.

Scan 4 seconds ahead for your immediate path and minimum stopping distance.

Scan 12 seconds ahead to plan a clear escape route.

Anticipating hazards is always better than reacting to them, since reactions take more time.

Be seen by other drivers.

Wear high-visibility gear, add auxiliary lighting, and use smart lane positioning. At slower speeds, even louder pipes can help increase awareness.

Ride within your ability.

Whether you're a new rider or a seasoned one, be honest about your skill level. Are roads like the Sturgis area or the Tail of the Dragon really within your comfort zone?

Don't let peer pressure dictate how you ride. If you push beyond your limits, you're the one who pays the price—not the people encouraging you. Riding will always carry added risks, but as motorcyclists, we have the ability to make every ride safer through smart decisions, preparation, and awareness.

RWP, Ride Safe and Practice Often

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

Update on the Spring 2026 MWRC

It's 2026!!! This means it's almost time for the 2026 MWRC Business Meeting. Ted is ready to party in Oski!

"Is this Heaven? No, it's Iowa." The Iowa Sixers are teaming up with IA I, III, and IV to host the Spring 2026 Business Meeting, June 12th and 13th 2026, at the Fairfield Inn Oskaloosa, IA. Oskaloosa Iowa is affectionately referred to as Oski.

We have a room block at the Fairfield Inn, 641-676-7600. If that fills up, there is an overflow hotel, the Everspring Inn & Suites, 641-676-6000. It's across the main drag about two blocks riding, that will match the host hotel's price. Both hotels offer free breakfast and the room rate is $110.00.

Of course, there will be a hospitality room with free snacks, beer, and pop (soda, for those further south). We request each Chapter represented provide a bottle of your favorite local blend to stock the harder stuff in the hospitality room.

Across the parking lot is a new venue called Trio. Trio is a multipurpose venue. They have a restaurant and have promised a few specials for us. They also have a bar and will donate a keg for consumption within their venue. As if that's not enough, they also have two golf simulators, two tennis courts, and four pickle ball courts, and oh yeah, they have three movie theaters, too. They also offer an outdoor seating area which is normally non-smoking, but they have said we will be allowed to smoke cigars. If you forget your sticks, there's a Smokin' Hot about half-mile away.

If you don't want to eat at Trio, there are several other restaurants in town. The PO Box is kind of like a speakeasy in the basement of a former post office. It's pretty neat and has good food. There are several places on/near the square, and a Smokey Row coffee shop that is really nice with a former bank vault turned into a bookstore next door. There is also a satellite location of Jaarsma Bakery in Oski. The main store is in Pella (about 20 miles north). You gotta try something from this place! We are working on getting special offers from these local venues.

Finally, we are planning a nice ride to show off southeast Iowa's scenic byways. We don't have the Black Hills, or the Ozark Mountains, but we have really nice backroads near lakes and rivers.

With the combined effort of all four Iowa Chapters, we've managed to make this all possible for the amazing registration fee of $30 per person! See the registration form on the MWRC webpage.
Come on over and visit the Iowa crew, again.

Ride With Pride…in IOWA
Mark Smoot
641-226-0749
msmoot3@gmail.com

Update on the Fall 2026 Conference

Nebraska II will be hosting the Fall 2026 conference in Omaha, Nebraska September 10th 11th and 12th, in conjunction with a celebration of our chapters 30th anniversary. We are working hard to put together a fun weekend for you. We will plan to take you on some of the best rides the area has to offer as well as self-guided ride suggestions. We plan on making sure you don't go hungry or thirsty and have some great outdoors space at the hotel for kicking back relaxing reconnecting or meeting new Blue Knights.

The event will be held at Courtyard Marriott Bellevue at Beardmore Event Center. The site offers many amenities including a pool, whirlpool, fitness center as well as a restaurant on site. You can either call the front desk at 402-408-5300 and ask to book under the Blue Knights Mid-West Regional Conference Block or you can send them this links below.
https://bit.ly/BlueKnightsMid-WestRegionalConference

Room rates are $110.00 plus tax for a king, and $120.00, plus tax, for double queen. Registration for this fun filled weekend will be $160.00 per attendee, this includes two buffet breakfasts (Friday & Saturday), Friday night dinner of smoked brisket, ribs and sides. Saturday night banquet and possibly a lunch at one of the local Harley dealers Friday or Saturday, two hospitality rooms, 22 oz insulated tumbler, challenge chip and anniversary cup.

NE-II is doing registrations and payment for the Fall Conference online. Use the link below to go to the NE-II event page, this information can also be found on MWRC events page
https://blueknightslemc.com/mwrc-fall-2026-conference

Any questions contact Scott Altic by email at president@blueknightslemc.com

Mid-Knight News Requirements

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

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:

Lloyd Youel
M.W.R.C. Secretary / Treasurer
9623 S Broadway St,
Peck, KS, 67120

MWRC State Representatives Contact Information

Iowa:	Dave Eyman	BKIARep@gmail.com
Kansas:	Jim Miller	jimmiller@jim-san.com
Minnesota:	Chris Boerner	cboerner9@aol.com
Missouri:	Don Tyes	bigdude@stjoelive.com
Nebraska:	Frank Bergmark	bikerbergs@charter.net
North Dakota:	Mark Ellingson	mellingson26@hotmail.com
Oklahoma:	Tom Ashing	tomashing@cox.net
South Dakota:	Dave Thorsgaard	dg17thor@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.

Iowa Representative Dave Eyman

Nothing

Kansas Representative Jim Miller

Kansas III will be hosting their Spring Fling in Lawrence, Kansas from 4:00 pm Friday afternoon, April 24th through 11:00 am Sunday morning, April 26th, 2026. It will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Lawrence at 200 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, KS 66044 (785-841-7077). The discounted room rate is $179.00 per night, which includes breakfast. Book by March 25th, 2026 to get the discounted rate. Their cancellation policy is 72 hours before. We are requesting a $25.00 donation per person. Some of the things to look forward to are a tour of the Kansas III Clubhouse Complex, a scenic motorcycle ride, live music Villains Dance, a special firearm raffle, lots of camaraderie, and lots of fun! Proceeds to benefit Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.). Please RSVP by emailing munderbkks3@gmail.com. We hope everyone can make it. This is always a great time!

“Ride With Pride”

Jim Miller
Kansas State Rep

Minnesota Representative Chris Boerner

Nothing

Missouri Representative Don Tyes

Happy New Year to all our Brothers and Sisters. The year ended with many of our chapters celebrating the holidays with Christmas gatherings. The weather was perfect in our area for families to travel and break bread together. Hopefully our good fortune will continue and we will continue to have an extended riding season.

Up next is the Spring Mid-west Business Meeting, June 12th – 14th, 2026, at the Fairfield Inn, 2325 Coal Mine Loop, in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Telephone number 641-676-7600. The registration form is available on the MWRC website. We hope to see you there.

Ride with Pride,
Donald Tyes, President MO X
Missouri State Representative

Nebraska Representative Frank Bergmark

Nothing much happening in Nebraska. Don't forget to pay your chapter dues to the MWRC and to file your federal 990.

Frank Bergmark
Nebraska I

North Dakota Representative

Nothing

Oklahoma Representative Tom Ashing

Nothing

South Dakota Representative Dave Thorsgaard

Happy New Year everyone from the Blue Knights of South Dakota I. We hope you all have a safe, healthy and prosperous 2026.

The last few months have been busy for us with our annual donations of time and money to Meals on Wheels Blizzard bags, Salvation Army Christmas food baskets, Feeding South Dakota Back Pack program, Badges for Hope and the one closest to us Monument Health's West unit for abused children with mental and chemical abuse issues. Along with all the items they need through the year, we were able to purchase Christmas gifts for the five children that did not get to leave the hospital. Each child received a $20.00 gift card to McDonalds, a lap blanket, a hand-held Simon memory game, a candy cane filled with Hershey kisses and a Christmas card from the Blue Knights. These 5 children made us personalized thank you cards, thanking us for remembering them at Christmas.

We are making plans on our calendar for this year to include our annual Blahs get a way, Frank's May ride to someplace for an early ride get together, the South Dakota Fallen Officers Memorial, our Big Horns run in June, the Spring meeting in Iowa and the Fall conference in NE. We can't forget the Sturgis Rally, even though it is an even year, 86th, we are hoping to have many Blue Knights join us for lunch at the Nemo Guest Ranch, day yet to be determined.

The weather has been unusually mild with most days 20 degrees above normal so our members have had some great opportunities for some nice day rides. We have a few of our members go to Texas, Arizona and other southern states for the winter and they are all riding as well.

Again, Happy New Year everyone, and we will see you down the road.

Ride with Pride!
Dave Thorsgaard
MWRC State Representative
Blue Knights South Dakota 1

BLUE KNIGHTS LAW ENFORCEMENT MOTORCYCLE CLUB

KANSAS III SPRING FLING 2026

4:00 pm Friday, April 24 to 11:00 am Sunday, April 26, 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton Lawrence
200 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, KS 66044 (785-841-7077)
Discounted rate is $179.00 per night (includes breakfast)
Book by March 25, 2026 to get the discounted rate. Cancellation policy is 72 hours before.

We are requesting a $25.00 donation per person

Things to look forward to:

Kansas III Clubhouse Complex Tour
Scenic Motorcycle Ride
Live Music (Villains Dance)
Firearm Raffle
Camaraderie
Lots of Fun

Proceeds to benefit Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.)

Please RSVP by emailing munderbkks3@gmail.com

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 1st 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