

The

Mid-Knight News

A quarterly publication of the Mid-West Regional Conference of the Blue Knights® International
Summer 2026 issue



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Editor:

The reason this edition is a little late. Is I, gave those that went to the International Convention in Calgary, time to get home. The convention was over on July 24th, so I gave a deadline of the end of July, which is usually the date I try to publish the Mid-Knight News'. Then when I went to check on why I did not have an article I was told it would be a few more days before they could get it to me. So again, I am sorry it's late,

This will be the last edition that Tom Luellen will be the Chairman for the Mid-West Regional Conference Tom has decided to move on to bigger things and was elected as the Chairman of the Board Of Governor's at the International Convention. With him now being the BOG Chairman, he did not feel he could give the time needed to also be the MWRC Chairman. So, at the Spring Business Meeting in Iowa Tom announced he would not be running again for Chairman of the MWRC. With that said, the MWRC elections will be held on Saturday, September 12th, 2026, at the Fall Conference in Bellevue, NE. However, candidates had to declare they were going to run for office by the close of the spring business meeting; which was held in Oskaloosa, Iowa on June 13th.

I have said all that to say, the MWRC will have a new Board starting after the close of the Business Meeting at the Fall Conference, as no one is running opposed I expect the new board to be:

Chairman Mark Smoot, Vice-Chairman Scott Altic, Secretary / Treasurer Lloyd Youel and Doug Casteel will remain the International Representative.

I would like to thank Tom Luellen for the years he put in as both the MWRC Secretary / Treasurer and as the MWRC Chairman. Tom was first elected as Secretary / Treasurer in 2018 and then as the Conference Chairman in 2022.

I am sure Tom will do an outstanding job as the BOG Chairman and I wish him the best of luck.

Rick



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

I met up just south of the Twin Cities and set out for the International Convention in Calgary. However, we went a bit of a long way around to Alaska! To be honest, I'm beginning to compose this article in a hotel the night before my last (half) day ride home. I won't waste space here with too much of the story, but I will say that five weeks ago tomorrow (which is Monday, July 27th) I left home. And I am rather proud of the fact, that I have now touched all 50 US states on a motorcycle. We had adventures, misadventures, highs, lows, and everything in between. I'd be happy to tell any of you all about it over a libation.

This year, all four MWRC Executive Board are up for election. Anyone interested in running for those positions had to declare their intent to run during the Spring President's Meeting. You may have heard by now, that during the subsequent International Convention in Calgary, I ran unopposed for the office of Chairman of the Blue Knights Board of Governors. Knowing that, without something crazy happening, I would be taking over that position. I decided not to run again for MWRC Chairman. I have thoroughly enjoyed my eight years on the board, but I did not want to hold both positions at the same time. I told the rest of the board ahead of time, and I'm happy to announce that Vice-Chairman Mark Smoot, is running for Chairman, NE-II Prez Scott Altic, is running for Vice-Chairman, Lloyd Youel is running to remain Secretary / Treasurer, and Doug Casteel is running to remain International Representative. All four are running unopposed. So, congrats to them and I am confident the MWRC will be in good hands.



That also means this is my last article in the Mid-Knight News. I have been profoundly proud to serve this Conference for the past eight years, and I am grateful for all the help and support I have received. All the State Reps, the newsletter editor, the webmaster(s), and the. safety officer(s), put in countless hours and they all deserve our thanks and gratitude.

Even though I will not be on the MWRC Executive Board after the September meeting, my virtual door will always remain 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 SUMMER!!!

In the last issue, I suggested you get out and visit your Brothers and Sisters around the MWRC. One of the major grievances I hear from fellow Knights is their Chapter's don't do anything. It's not difficult to be active. It's difficult to get the entire Chapter active at the same time. It's almost impossible. You don't have to get everyone going at the same time, just get everyone going. We all have a life outside the Blue Knights. It's tough for some to make the Blue Knights one of your priorities. If you can get them out once in a while, they'll be amazed how easy it is to meet others with the same interests and similar schedules. Here's how I've done it...



Kristie and I have already logged 6,000 miles this year. Yes, I'm retired, but she's not. We do weekend rides and plan our trips during times she can get away. I wear my vest most of the time I'm riding. Here's an example of why: During a recent ride, I stopped for gas in a small town in Missouri. While there, a local officer pulled in. We started talking and I asked him if he was familiar with the Blue Knights. He said he was not. That was my opportunity to promote our club. I also gave him a challenge coin. I'm sure he shared that with his local Brothers and Sisters. A few weeks later, Tom Luellen said he had ridden through there. If they saw him, they knew who he was. Hopefully these were sparks that will build interest in their community.



Other ways to stay involved are to attend your Chapter and other Chapter events. So far this year, I have attended all of our Chapters monthly lunch rides and I invited other Chapters to join us. This was a rooftop lunch in Pella, Iowa, where members of Iowa III joined us. Iowa III has recently scheduled a lunch ride to Amana, Iowa and invited the other Iowa Chapters to join them. Sure, not all members can attend, but by making these events frequent and on random days, everyone will have a chance to attend at some point.

Kristie and I also attended KS III's Spring Fling. It was supposed to be cold and stormy. It turned out to be a beautiful weekend. If you have never been to their club house, you should make plans to visit them. They have a really cool setup. They also have a display honoring every Chapter who ever visited them. One of the toys they have is a shooting simulator. We had a little impromptu competition. Of course, Jeff Miller made us all look bad, but yours truly came in second.



In May, Kristie and I attended the Spring RGC in Lake City, TX. On the way down, we met up with members from NE II and KS III. We arrived just in time to catch the Party Boat the host Chapter arranged. We took a nice ride to Galveston and ate lunch on the beach. The next day, we got caught in a serious storm! It's all good, now, but Kristie's shoes didn't dry out for almost a week.

By attending these other Conference events, we have met some great new friends and gained insight into how the Blue Knights family operates around the globe. As they say, "The more you know, the better it gets".



After the RGC, we rode over to San Antonio for a few days. That was a nice get-a-way. I used to live in San Antonio, but Kristie had never been there. We stayed on the Riverwalk and spent two days walking around that area. We visited the Alamo and I got to enjoy a beverage in the Menger Bar, where Teddy Roosevelt recruited his Rough Riders.

June brought the Spring MWRC Business Meeting. Thank you all who attended! We had planned a nice ride around Lake Red Rock. We made it to the lunch stop before Mother Nature decided she didn't want us going any further. Oh well, it was still a fun event.

As I said above, by attending other Conference events, you meet other Brothers and Sisters who become good friends. Kristie and I have attended two previous SRC's (Baton Rouge, LA and Hiawasse, GA). We met new



friends at these. The SC State Rep, Chuck Runnion, brought one of his Chapter members up to our event. After the MWRC was over, we showed them around Sixer Country. We visited the Gothic House in Eldon, IA and rode along the Des Moines River in southeast Iowa.



As I mentioned in previous newsletters and during the Business Meeting, IA VI and NE II are hosting the Rye Ride again this summer. We've added Iowa IV to this event. In case you haven't heard, the Rye Ride is a strictly social event. This year we decided to go even more casual and host it on Lake Okoboji in northwest Iowa. The gathering place is the Village West Resort in Storm Lake, IA. This resort is owned by an Iowa IV member. The resort's number is (712) 337-3223, ask for Jennifer. Their address is 20785 170th ST, Spirit Lake, IA 51350.



The Rye Ride is free to attend. All food and drink is on your own. We will go to dinner as a group Friday and Saturday. Saturday we will ride to a local distillery for a tour and sampling. Lake Okoboji is a tourist area with plenty of activities for the entire family. Come

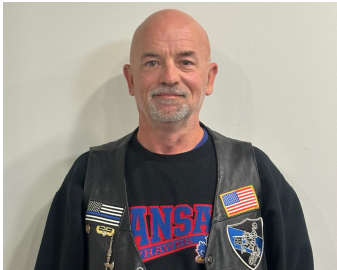
out and join us! The info is on the [Midwest webpage](#).

I've told you about John Dryden, in Manitoba, who is attempting to get another Chapter started up there. He said he's close, but having trouble finding the last couple potential members. John lives in Brandon, Manitoba. The nearest major metro area is Winnipeg. If you find yourself in that area, or know anyone up there, put them in touch with John. Hopefully, this will generate more interest. John has been working hard toward starting a new Manitoba Chapter and is getting really close, he just needs a little boost.

Finally, this is my last letter as the Vice-Chairman. At the September meeting, it appears, I will be the next Chairman. Scott Altic will become the next Vice-Chairman. Scott is full of ideas and energy to carry this great organization into the next era. I look forward to working with him, but I will need your

support as Chairman. Tom Luellen is leaving a huge pair of shoes for me to fill. Fortunately, he's not leaving the Conference, so I will be able to ask him plenty of questions. Keep in mind, this is YOUR club. I want to hear your ideas and feedback. What are we doing right, what could we do better? Have fun doing what you love. Others who love the same things will take notice. Ride With Pride and I'll see you in Bellingham!

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. It seems like last week, we were in Iowa for the Spring 2026 Business Meeting. I hope everyone had a great time. I left early because there was a possibility

that my second grandchild was going to join the world over that weekend, she didn't arrive until later in the week and is doing great. The MWRC Board talked about doing a 50/50 drawing to help increase the funds in the MWRC account. We had a drawing Friday night and Mark Murrel won \$190.00 and the drawing Saturday morning after the business meeting, was won by our Safety Officer Scott Grabowski and he won \$140.00. We will be doing this at each Conference also. Just a reminder if you have not paid your dues for 2026 yet, there is still plenty of time to get them mailed to me (9623 S Broadway St, Peck, KS, 67120), or you can pay me at the Fall Conference in Nebraska. I would like to ask for continued prayers for Duane Potter. He had an issue with some medication and is overcoming that currently.

Ride with Pride
Lloyd Youel
Interim Secretary Treasurer



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

Since our last newsletter, I have represented you via Zoom at the June International Board of Directors (BOD) meeting and at the International Convention in Calgary.

Here are the highlights of those meetings:

June BOD Meeting:

Election Committee Bob Seelye – added members to the committee that were approved by the BOD, Andy Stone (UK&I), Jean Paul Renaud (NEC), Manny Maldonado (RGC), Rob Goodger (WCC)

BOG Andreas Hohendorf – the BOG didn't receive and bids for the 2028 International Convention. There will be a BOG by-law amendment presented in Calgary to assign the duties of finding a host to the Vice-Chairman.

Unfinished Business – Alfredo Delgado (PR I)'s status has been changed from suspended (member not in good standing) to Persona Non Grata. Unanimous vote.

New Business –

Proposal 2026-0001 – To assist BE VIII by paying half of their tax bill for items related to them hosting the international convention. Motion failed with five yeas and 10 nays, with me voting nay.

Proposal 2026-0002 – To increase the international dues by \$5 for 2027 and then \$1 a year for the years 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, and 2032. Unanimous vote.

From the international convention in Calgary.

Board of Governors Meeting

The special fund is currently \$306,576.74

The proposal to make the vice chairman responsible for getting chapters to host international conventions passed. There were no bids for the 2028 convention, so it is the BOD's responsibility.

General Membership Meeting:

An appreciation plaque was presented to Ryder trucking for conducting the truck blind spot demo. The 2027 International will be in Waidring, Austria and the registration is 180 euros. There are various lodging options.

Headquarters Committee is selling patches to raise funds as they no longer have any rental income.

Webmaster is updating the international website, so please go to it and check to make sure your links are correct and if not provide the updated information. Clean out your corporate email.

NAVP Cal Ennals – Current membership as of July 15th, we have 567 chapters with 13,801 members. When you are hosting conferences or internationals, check with your convention bureaus because some of them will give you a grant of goods or money.

Prez Russ Harper – Keep the national politics out of the Blue Knights® as they interfere with the fraternal spirit. He has the bylaw committee reviewing the bylaws and making recommendations on changes. We have a scholarship program, get the word out to your members. We need to get back to the comradery that this club was formed on and set all the bickering aside.

THE MAGAZINE COMMITTEE IS CONDUCTING A POLL THAT YOU CAN FIND IN THE MEMBERS' ONLY SECTION THAT WILL END ON JULY 30TH. GET YOUR MEMBERS TO COMPLETE IT, AS THEIR OPINIONS ARE NEEDED.

Treasurer Brian Arnold advised his information is on the website and there is also a document there called Where Does Your Money Go.

Proposal 2025-0010 which removed the verbiage on membership qualifications to allow someone to join if they didn't own a motorcycle was ratified, so new members must own a motorcycle at the time of application. The vote was 145 yes, 22 nays, and 2 abstentions.

Proposal 2026-0002 which increased the dues by \$5 for 2027 and \$1 additional for each of the following 5 years for a total of \$10 by 2032, passed with 167 yeas, 2 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Board of Directors Meeting:

The 2ND issue of the magazine is currently at the printer.

President Russ Harper worked with two Florida Chapters to submit a bid for the 2028 International. FL IX and FL XXXII presented a bid to host the 2028 International Convention in Daytona FL, June 11TH – 16TH, 2028. They are currently looking at the Daytona Grande Resort and expect rooms to be \$189.00. It passed unanimously.

All corporate email boxes will be purged on September 1ST, of every year, so if you have something saved there you will need to forward it to your personal email.

There was an appeal of a Sales Committee decision not to allow an item to be sold. Appeal was granted with 13 yes, 3 no, and no abstentions, with me voting no.

The SRC request to place a non-member on the Persona Non Grata List was granted by a unanimous vote.

The next meeting will be September 17th, 2026, at 10:00am ET and agenda items are due by August 18, 2026, at 4:00pm ET.

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**

Hello Everyone! My name is Kristin Engle and I am proud to serve as the new webmaster for the MWRC. First and foremost, I want to recognize our late Webmaster Wayne Schwartz from MN-IV.

Wayne served as our webmaster for over 20 years, and his hard work is greatly appreciated.

Our new website is up and running (blueknightsmidwest.org)! You should find everything from the previous site transferred over to the new site with some additions. There is an "upcoming events" section on the new site where I can post information about upcoming events for our various chapters within the MWRC. Should you have anything you wish to add to the site, feel free to send it to me and I will get it added. I have been attempting to pull things from the private MWRC Facebook page as well.

I look forward to meeting more of you in Nebraska at the Fall MWRC!

Thank You,

Kristin Engle, Webmaster
Blueknightsmwrc@gmail.com



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

RIDING IN THE HEAT

It's summer and the heat is on and for a majority of us living north it's the only time of the year we get to ride.

Riding a motorcycle in extreme heat can be done safely, but it takes some planning, proper gear and knowing when to take breaks or stop for the day.

If you have a long, two plus hour ride planned and it's going to be hot during your ride, start preparing for the ride the day before by hydrating well and continue until the ride. During the ride, drink small amounts of water often along with a drink containing electrolytes, don't let yourself get thirsty. A hydration pack can help.

Plan your ride early in the day or later and avoid riding during the hottest times of the day. Plan your stops so you can spend time in air conditioning, or the beer cave. Remember to still wear proper gear. Mesh gear gives you protection in case you crash but also can protect you from the sun still allowing airflow. Think about wearing moisture wicking clothes under your riding gear. This takes sweat away from your body, thus cooling your body more efficiently. Avoid cotton, unless you have plenty of air flow under your jacket, it keeps moisture close to your skin and dries slowly.

There are also various cooling vests that can be worn under your jacket, ones that you can soak in water or insert ice blocks or even plug in and cold-water pumps through it. You can also wet your shirt or headband for temporary cooling.

We were all trained in first aid and know the signs of heat exhaustion. If you are riding solo or in a small group, watch for those signs. Heat exhaustion can be dealt with by stopping and hydrating and getting in a cool place. If heat exhaustion is left untreated for too long, it will lead to heat stroke. Heat stroke can have permanent effects and can even be deadly.

Plan for extra stops to ensure you make it to your destination for the day.

See you in Bellevue in September.

RWP Ride Safe and Practice Often

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



Update on the Fall 2026 MWRC



🏍️ Registration is still OPEN! 🎉

There's still time to join us for the Midwest Conference 2026 in Omaha, September 10th – 12th! Don't miss a weekend of great rides, fellowship, unforgettable memories, and your chance to win some incredible prizes.

🎁 Raffle prizes include:

🎧 Air Pods Pro

🎧 Air Pods Max

🧊 YETI Cooler

✨ And so much more!

Register today and you'll be in on all the fun—including the opportunity to win these amazing prizes. We can't wait to see everyone in Omaha!

📅 September 10–12, 2026

📍 Omaha, Nebraska

Don't wait—secure your spot today! **Registration closes August 31st**

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. **Please call Breanna Mayer Sales Coordinator at 402 408-9866** and ask to book under the Blue Knights Mid-West Regional Conference Block. Only king rooms remain

Room Rates are \$110.00 plus tax for a Kking. Registration for this fun filled weekend will be \$160.00 per attendee, this includes 2 buffet breakfasts (Fri & Sat), Friday night dinner of smoked brisket, ribs and sides. Saturday night banquet and possibly a lunch at one of the local Harley dealers (Fri or Sat) 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>

Blue Knights® International
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.

**Update on the
Spring 2027
Conference**

Rushmore Express Keystone



320 Cemetery Road, Keystone, SD 57751, US
See Map
ReservationDesk.com: 866-994-8087

HOTEL DESCRIPTION

Enjoy a range of recreational amenities, including an indoor pool, a hot tub, and a fitness center. Additional amenities at this hotel include complimentary wireless internet access, gift shops/newsstands, and a television in a common area.

President's meeting will be held at the Keystone Project on the hill above the Rushmore Express.

2027 Presidents meeting

June 11th – 13th

Host hotel is the Rushmore Express Inn

320 Cemetery Rd

Keystone, South Dakota 57751

1+605-666-4483

Room rates \$149.00 + taxes for the rustic standard rooms



Suites for \$189.00 – \$249.00 These suites are multiple bed combinations

Free breakfast is available at the hotel

67 rooms have been blocked for us

Hospitality room on 2nd floor

Our meeting will be at the Keystone Ministry Learning Center

SPECIAL NOTE: \$5.00 OF EVERY REGISTRATION WILL BE DONATED TO THE KEYSTONE MINISTRY LEARNING CENTER

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

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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 to report

Kansas Representative Jim Miller

At Kansas III's 2026 Spring Fling in April, the turnout was about half of what it has been in the past. I'm certain that the weather forecast of rain and more rain contributed to that. But those who did turn out also showed up! I am happy to announce that Kansas III made a profit and was able to make a nice donation to Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.)! On behalf of Kansas III, I want to thank everyone who participated and contributed to the event's success.



I would also like to congratulate Greg Neis (Kansas III) and Travis Roberts (Kansas IX). Greg won \$250 in the 50/50 drawing and Travis won the drawing for the Custom Blue Knights AR-15 rifle!

Villain's Dance put on a great show and was a huge hit! They are very supportive of the Blue Knights and



Kansas III's mission to support our charity of choice, Concerns of Police Survivors. Their original bass player had a family member that was injured in the line of duty and then passed away later as a result of his injuries. So their hearts are right with ours when we talk about fallen officers. The band has reached out to Kansas III about a gig they are doing at a biker bar in Eudora, KS in October. They offered to promote the Blue Knights and C.O.P.S. and donate a portion of the cover charge to Kansas III. We are in discussions with the band and the bar and working out the logistics. I will let everyone know when we figure out all of the details regarding that event.

"Ride With Pride"

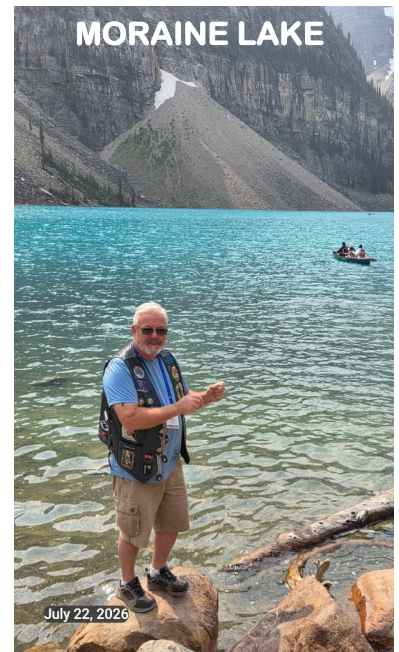
Jim Miller
Kansas State Rep
Kansas III Past President

Minnesota Representative Larry Klink

As we continue to celebrate 250 years of independence in these great United States, I feel that, if just for a fleeting moment, we have come together, knowing how wonderful this country was and is today. How did we get through it all? We haven't always agreed or got along. We haven't always made good choices. We have seen wars and conflicts, depressions and hardships. But as we work together on issues and believe that we can be better people and a better America, we will be. Sounds just like the Blue Knights. Together, the sisterhood and brotherhood stand together to make this a great organization as we continue in the future.

And speaking of great brotherhood and sisterhood we want to thank Alberta-V for a great Blue Knight convention, 2026. Four well-guided rides, for three days and many self-guided rides. A bus tour on Wednesday and a chance to get off the bikes for a day trip. An elegant buffet dinner of local cuisine along with a great program with a lesson on the local tribal culture. MN-IV had 12 in attendance and MN-I had two in attendance. MN-II had one in attendance.

MN-II's honorary member Dan Boerner, who couldn't make it to the convention, provided Brian Gadd (MN-I) with a vile of his brother's ashes. Chris Boerner was MWRC's Minnesota State Representative for many years and passed away earlier this year from cancer. It was requested by Chris, to have his ashes spread where Blue Knights gathered. What a great tribute to Chris. Pictured is Brian Gadd spreading a bit of Chris at Lake Louise and Moraine Lake in Alberta. As a Heaven-I member, his legacy lives on and continues to "Ride with Pride". Forever in our thoughts and prayers for he and his family.



See you all in Omaha for the Fall Conference

Ride with Pride,
Larry Klink, MN State Representative

Missouri Representative Don Tyes

We have had an extremely warm and hot spring and summer here in Missouri. The state also experienced a lot of rain and severe weather in the southeast region, but, due to the heroic efforts of first responders and the National Guard, the loss of lives was kept to a minimum.

Members from Missouri I and Missouri III attended the International Conference in Calgary, Alberta in Canada. I hope everyone enjoyed the photo magazines from this event posted on Social Media.

Additionally, our own MWRC Chairman, Tom Luellen, was installed as the International Board of Governors Chairmain at the conclusion of the Conference. Congratulations Tom!!!

Next up is the MWRC Fall Conference, hosted by Nebraska II on September 10 – 13, 2026, at the Courtyard by Marriott Omaha Bellevue, 3750 Raynor Parkway, Bellevue, Nebraska. The telephone number is 402-408-5300. The Fall Conference will be followed on October 3, 2026, by the Missouri X, 14th Annual Fallen Officer's Memorial Ride. The Memorial Ride will be held again at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge # 3, 621, South 36th Street, St. Joseph, Missouri. Lets get together and again honor these fallen heroes.

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

Nebraska Representative Frank Bergmark

We had a good time in Iowa and thanks to them for hosting the Spring Business Meeting. Looking forward to the Fall Conference in Omaha. I know NE II will do a great job. Nothing else to report.

Frank Bergmark
Nebraska State Representative

North Dakota Representative

Nothing

Oklahoma Representative Tom Ashing

Greetings from Oklahoma and OK II.

Kudos to the Iowa Knights for hosting the Spring Business Meeting. It is cooperation among chapters like that displayed that produces strong union. Oklahoma had a smattering showing with members from OK II making the trip. Seems like Oklahoma is having the same trouble as other chapters in recruiting new members. Membership in general seems to be plaguing other organizations as well.

As I sit at my desk pondering what to write for the newsletter, my mind started to wonder about the future of the Blue Knights, then it began to wander through the past. I began to think of all the journeys over the past 41 years since, I became a Blue Knight. I have visited many places I probably wouldn't have seen and met people I wouldn't have met. Some of these have become lifelong friends. I have been wet, almost drowned, hot, almost a heat stroke, cold, nearly frozen but wouldn't take anything for the adventures and camaraderie experienced. The pride felt while seeing hundreds of bikers sporting the Blue Knight patch rolling down the highway is indescribable, knowing we share an unbreakable

bond. As with life, there have been tears of joy at weddings and tears of sorrow at funerals along the way. None of which I would have experienced had I not belonged to the Blue Knight brotherhood.

What does the future hold? Where will it find us? No one knows, but as for me, I am proud to be a Blue Knight, and I plan to carry the Blue Knight banner as long and as far as I can.

Looking forward to the Fall and seeing everyone in Nebraska.

May we rejoice in our past memories and continue to make new ones and never forget to "Ride with Pride,".

Tom Ashing,
Oklahoma State Representative

South Dakota Representative Dave Thorsgaard

The Blue Knights of South Dakota I have been in the heat dome for the past couple of weeks and it is hot along with the drought it has been rough.

The annual Sturgis rally is only a few weeks away August 7-16, 2026. We are hoping any and all Blue Knights attending, will join us on Sunday August 9th at the Nemo Guest Ranch for a meet and greet 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Follow us on Facebook for more details.



BK SD I had a small contingent at the President's meeting in Oskaloosa, Ia and I must say they did a good job organizing this event. Our group enjoyed it a lot. We will also be in attendance for the Fall Conference in Bellevue, NE. Looking to meet some new brothers and sisters as well as our many BK friends.

At our July meeting, President Mike Wibben, presented Pat Corbin with his 25-year services awards and plaque.

Also awarded with a 25-year plaque was Charles Bernhoft. Chuck was not able to attend, so his awards will be mailed to him.

Stay safe and always Ride With Pride.

Dave Thorsgaard
MWRC State Rep.
BK SD I

RYE RIDE II

As we've mentioned in previous newsletters and during Business Meetings, IA VI and NE II are hosting the Rye Ride again this summer, August 28-30th. We've added Iowa IV to this event. In case you haven't heard, the Rye Ride is a strictly social event. This year we decided to go even more casual and host it on Lake Okoboji in northwest Iowa. The gathering place is the Village West Resort in Storm Lake, IA. This resort is owned by an Iowa IV member. The resort's number is (712) 337-3223, ask for Jennifer. Their address is 20785 170th ST, Spirit Lake, IA 51350.

The Rye Ride is free to attend. All food and drink is on your own. We will go to dinner as a group Friday and Saturday. Saturday we will ride to a local distillery for a tour and sampling. Come out and join us! The info is on the [Midwest webpage](#).

Lake Okoboji is a tourist area with plenty of activities for the entire family and home of the former Polaris Motorcycles. There are numerous restaurants, bars, and amusement venues. The host hotel is on Lake Okoboji. Room rate is \$85.00 for a standard room or \$95.00 for an upgraded room.

We will meet up Friday for a social gathering. Saturday, we will ride to Spencer, IA and tour Century Farms Distillery. Century Farms is known for using local corn and grains for blending their products. They also offer custom labels and barrel purchases.



Once we're finished at the distillery, we will return to the hotel to share more tales and enjoy our newfound beverages. This event is open to all Blue Knights and family members. There is no registration or fee for joining us. All food and beverages are on your own. Get your room reserved and join us!

Pictures of last year's ride

If you would please, RSVP to me so I can let the distillery know how many to expect.

Ride With Pride
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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