

# BLUE KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL BOARD of DIRECTORS

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 20th, 2018 at 1400 Hours Eastern

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** President DJ Alvarez called the meeting to order at 14:08 hours and requested a moment of silence for ALL the members of Heaven I, and all Law Enforcement Officers slain in the line of duty.

**BLUE KNIGHT PLEDGE:** Read by President DJ Alvarez. *As a Blue Knight, I pledge to act with honor and pride to promote motorcycling and motorcycle safety by being an example of the safe use, operation and enjoyment of motorcycles. I will work at all times to improve the relationship between the motorcycling law enforcement community and the general public. The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights.*

### I. SECRETARY –

#### A. Roll Call/Guests

- **President: DJ Alvarez (DJ)**
- **Vice-President: Karen Borza (KB)**
- **Treasurer: John Bull (JRB)**
- **Past President: Bob Flanagan (BF)**
- **BOG: Rory MacConnell (RM)**
- **Europe: Koen Hutse (KH)**
- **Great Lakes: Dennis Hafeman (DH)**
- **Mason-Dixon: Mike Pollinger (MP)**
- **Mid-West: Doug Casteel (DC)**
- **Northeast: David Nielsen (DN) (NOT ON THE CALL)**
- **Rio Grande: Roger Byars (RB)**
- **Southern: Bob Awtrey (BA)**
- **Southwest: Guy O'Connor (GO)**
- **Tri-State: Keith Bowers (KBTS)**
- **UK & I: Graham Buxton (GB)**
- **West Coast: Lisa O'Brien (LO)**
- **Secretary: Jim Borza (JB)**
- **Office Manager: Jana Clark (JC)**
- **Guest(s):**
  1. Tom Nelson PA 18

**B. Approval of September Minutes**

Everybody should have a copy of the minutes of our board meeting of September 8th, 2018. Are there any questions or additional corrections? Is there a motion to approve the minutes? Motion to accept minutes made by Vice President Karen Borza and seconded by Southwest Guy O’Connor. Unanimous approval. Motion Passes.

**AT THIS POINT OF THE MEETING SINCE WE HAD (GUEST) TOM NELSON ON THE CALL, WE JUMPED TO PROPOSAL 2018-0025. ONCE THE PROPOSAL WAS COMPLETED WE WENT BACK TO THE SCHEDULED AGENDA**

**REPORTS:**

**COMMITTEES:**

**Headquarters: Bob Flanagan, Immediate Past President**

Headquarters Money Market Account #1 (6090) Balance = \$241,866.52

**Total Money Market Account = \$241,866.52**

**Operating checking account as of: 1-July 18 = \$ 52,435.57**

**Total funds in all accounts = \$ 294,302.09**

(This Money Market account is listed under BK Intl Financial Report)

Side note: We are working on moving this MM acct back over to Hdqts accounting so they

Do not appear on the Intl financial statements? Waiting on accountant and bank confirmations.

Accountant has instructed us to leave the MM acct in the Intl funds for tax purposes.

Lease for PSC Industrial (22 Alden Street) also known as Phillips Services was renewed on 1 December 2014 for two years and will expire on 1 January 2017. Rent on this building is \$2,600 per month which totals \$31,200.00 yearly. At Sept 2016 meeting the BOD voted to increase monthly rent on this property to \$2800.00 monthly starting in 2017. Effective November 2016, PSC Industrial has notified us that they are going out

of business and will not be renewing the lease. 22 Alden street property is now vacant!!! We currently have an auto repair/car dealership showing interest in the building.

**NOTE:** The car dealership (Donald Kelley) has picked up a two year lease from Jana and should drop it off prior to 1 Oct 2017. The two year lease is for \$2,800.00 per month starting 1 Oct 2017. Also the appraisal has just been received at the office and 22 Alden st is appraised at currently \$315,000.00.

The car dealership (Donald Kelly came back with a proposal and only wanted to pay \$1000.00 per month for 6 months. That was rejected and we are now giving 22Alden St to a realtor to find a lease for us. Still empty.

Note: As of January 2018, Jana has showed 22 Alden St on six different occasions-All say rent is too high and the building needs work.

Special note: We learned a few weeks ago that 22 Alden Street was broken into and the rear door was kicked in to gain entrance. BPD was notified and is investigating. Our insurance is also aware and the first estimate for repairs is nearing \$2000.00 to repair the damage. All of the heating copper piping was stolen and needs replaced and repaired. Will wait for the written estimate to arrive at the office then get it repaired ASAP. Our insurance covered this theft with a \$1000.00 deductible

**Special Note:** 22 Alden street property: Effective on 1 May 2018, Mitchell Landscaping will do a partial building lease on this property and pay \$800.00 per month for a part of the building. Also Mitchell Landscaping will do our Snow plowing needs in the winter for all the properties at no cost to us (This is approximately a \$2000.00 additional savings to us) we normally pay around \$2000.00 per winter for this service. Also there is another company coming in to see Jana about renting the other part of the building out (more will follow soon I hope)??

Rental House, 666 N French Street, Bangor Maine, next to the office is rented for \$600.00 per month, which totals \$7,200.00 yearly. We pay all Utilities for this house. The current lease is for two years and was effective on 4 Jan 2015 and expires 4 Jan 2017. Note: Renters have notified us that they are moving in November, 2016 and this property is also vacant!

**Note: Effective 1 February 2017** we have a renter in the house. Rent is \$650.00 per month. Renters pay the utilities. One year lease. **\$7800.00 annually**

At the 10 Jan 2015 BOD meeting, a motion was made by Gary Pierce WCC to do a study and get estimates on repairing, and adding onto the current Hdqts building second by GLRC and passed unanimously. On Hold until we see what the fundraiser will bring in.

**Note:** In 2015, the Intl BOD passed a proposal that was presented by Rory MacConnell, Fla XV111, to start a Fundraising program by International, Rory presented the program at Harrisburg, PA and will run it for one year(fundraiser ends at the 2017 convention). Rory MacConnell is Chairman of that committee. As of today that fundraiser has brought in \$12,197.97. At the July, 2017 annual Hdqts meeting this board voted to continue the fundraiser indefinitely. **As of 20 November 2018 the balance in fundraiser is \$12,201.96**

Note: At the Hdqts annual meeting of 17 July 2018 the board of Directors voted to Sell 22 Alden street property and also tear down the rental house at 666 French street(see annual Hdqts meeting minutes for 17 July 2018)

**Update:** Jana has notified the renter of the home and renter is looking for another place to live at this time.

Jana will notify a Real Estate co to get 22 Alden Street on the market.

Jana had a meeting with the city and was advised that we don't need a survey/rezone of the property because it is commercial, we just mark off and sell.

Jana can advise more info on this.

Jana is in the process of getting price quotes for the demolition of the house:

**Update 11-20-2018-** 22 Alden street is listed by Caldwell Banker Realty (8% commission) for \$323,000.00.

666 French St renters, deadline to be out is 1 April2019/can't get demolition until May anyway.

Also, the old PSC Company may want to rent 22 Alden Street until it is sold.

**UPDATE, PSC HAS RENAMED THEIR COMPANY AND WILL BE A NEW COMPANY AND THEY ARE WILLING TO PAY OUT \$2800 TO RENT UNTIL IT SELLS AND THEY ASKED FOR A 90 DAY NOTICE TO MOVE IF WE WOULD SELL THYE LAND AND THEY ARE HOPING TO BUY THE LAND RIGHT OUT WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF WHEN THEY MOVE IN**

*This report prepared for the 20 November 2018 BOD Meeting*

### **Headquarters Committee**

Chairman-	Bob Flanagan	Past, Intl President
V- Chairman	Jay Durost	Maine 1
Secretary	Kevin Sutherland	NB 1
Trustee	Andreas Hohendorf	Germany V
Trustee	DJ Alvarez	Intl President

**Internet Committee: Joe Ball International Web Master**  
**(Not on the call but submitted a report)**

**Internet Committee:**  
Nothing to report

**Renewals:**

As of November 18 we have had 169 chapters login to the online renewals. We have had 10 chapters submit their rosters to HQ.

**TREASURER – John Bull:**

Motion to review the budget: Treasurer (JRB), 2<sup>nd</sup> by GLRC (DC)

The proposed budget by (JRB) was then reviewed line by line and section by section by the Board of Directors. Several changes were made to the proposed budget. This process with the board lasted for 2 hours and 7 minutes. The board was finally able to complete a budget that was in the black.

Motion was made by Treasurer (JRB) to approve the budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SRC (BA)

**Vote: 14 (Yea) - 1 (Nay) - 0 (Abstention)**

**Note – Northeast Conference not present for the meeting.**

**2019 BUDGET WAS APPROVED AND IS POSTED ON THE INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE UNDER THE MEMBERS ONLY SECTION**

**COMMITTEE: Bob Awtrey**

(BA) I went to Bangor and met with Senator Jeff Gratwick. He came to the Blue Knights Headquarters to meet me and Jana and tour the office. He was ashamed he was a local state Senator and didn't know there was an International non-profit corporation that he didn't know about. It sort of put a feather in our cap when he admitted that. We spent the day together and I explained to him how the electronic voting we proposed was important to us both from cost effectiveness and efficiency. He concurred whole heartedly and said he would support this bill in the next/upcoming legislative session. In Maine it will be this summer (2019). We also met with the Maine Association of Non-Profits which is the organization we joined. They championed our cause and they are going to help the Senator write the legislation with our wording to allow electronic voting for all Maine Non-Profit organizations in the future. Two days after the meeting the elections were held in Maine and he did get re-elected.

I sent a copy of the contract from the Election Trust Company and the invoice for their services to everybody which includes their procedures. I will go back to them now as our membership is smaller than I had them contract for and they are willing to work with us and give us a new cost

with the updated numbers. I will then get back to everyone with any cost reduction as soon as I can. The contract basically followed almost verbatim the language we had agreed upon at our last meeting. They were the most cost effective and could actually do what we asked them to do in a timely manner. It is really the same except for some postage adjustment.

To clarify we had them bid using the number 19,400 for membership. They will now adjust for the numbers we got today. All this was a cost estimate.

Secretary Jim Borza forwarded the information to all International Reps during the meeting as some stated they didn't receive it. No questions were asked nor comments made.

**VICE-PRESIDENT – Karen Borza:**

Vice-President (KB)

CONFERENCE	# CHAPT	#MEMBERS
EC	103	2427
GLRC	83	2105
MDC	71	2287
MWRC	33	800
NEC	50	1284
RGC	49	1127
SRC	82	2318
SWC	23	722
TSC	62	2485
UKIC	27	794
WCC	47	1387
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>17736</b>

(KB) This time last year our membership was 17,598 so we are actually up by 138 members in 2018 over 2017. As far as chapters in 2017 we had 632 and 2018 630, so we are not losing members but we did lose two chapters.

As for recruitment and retention, I had three chapters put in for the \$500 allotment per conference. John Bull will see those receipts come in for review by the president, Shelia and himself. That is roughly \$1,500 for this year we will have spent.

Other than that, I keep asking anybody that has ideas for recruitment to share them with me and then I share them with other conferences so they get some ideas.

**PRESIDENT – DJ Alvarez:**

President (DJ) First off I'd like to wish everyone on the board a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Holidays. We obviously won't speak again until next year. This board has gotten a lot accomplished. We may not all have gotten along at times but you know what, at the end we got the job done and I appreciate everybody on this board. Couple things I want to bring up, I want to stress to the reps that you forward anything that comes out to your conference chapters. Unfortunately I hate to say it but it's the same ones on Facebook and all they do is stir up and cause dissention and animosity unnecessarily. Some of it is because the information doesn't get out because once they start others chime in. Some of these guys are chapter presidents that should have the true information and they aren't getting it. So I'm not sure if they aren't getting it or they aren't sharing it. I'm sure you all send it out but I would stress to your chapters to read this information. Somebody was spouting off on social media the other day with stuff that was discussed in the general membership meeting in Georgia, discussed and voted on by the BOD that is about the trip to Bangor. Some of you have tried to step in with the right information, Doug is one of the most active and I appreciate it very much. So let's like I said, inform the membership, get the information out to these guys.

West Coast Conference (LO) DJ you're talking about the information from the minutes on the website right?

(DJ) Yes. When the minutes come out from Jim Borza you are supposed to send them to your chapters. Do you do that?

(LO) Oh absolutely.

(DJ) I know the information is there. I'm just trying to reduce the bs because it hurts this club, it really does. A lot of misinformation both in the regular social settings and another certain social page that continues to be negative which some of you are members on. I think that if you see it, if you see a fire, put it out. That is our job. We should do that.

(LO) Is there anything in the magazine reminding everybody that it is available?

(DJ) We can do that but I'm trying to get to the point that the Reps need to start putting some of these fires out. I keep going back to Doug because he is probably the only one I've seen as far as the Reps that if a fire is starting as far as misinformation, he gets a bucket of water and pours it on. A lot of the time the fire goes out and that's a good thing. I'm just asking you guys, if you see it address it and address it properly. You know the information first hand. Again, it's because if it hurts this club and hurts the morale of the membership, this is the time of the year when it can affect quickly, it's time to renew. Be more proactive, that's all I'm asking.

The computer issue, John had brought that up earlier. Andy was our programmer for years. It started last year when we had an issue with our database and he decided to take a six week vacation. It hurt us and it hurt us bad. Now Jana found out he's fix 'in to sail around the world but said he could still help us but only when he logs in. I said no we are done with that! We can't afford that. We need somebody that can respond and not have to wait for the mood to strike to

log in. So after last year's snafu and this year and the database which had to be done by September 30<sup>th</sup> and then it was three weeks late and still hadn't been done. I fired him. Joe Ball is helping us and Joe did what this guy couldn't do and he did it in about six hours. He set up the database and he will help us maintain the database for no charge. I'm not saying we are going to stay with him forever but for right now he steered the ship away from the rocks and it's heading on the right path. We will save some money in the long run and I can call Joe, he is just as reliable as Paul Croteau – God rest his soul-. Joe got it fixed. Jana is looking for a computer programmer in the Bangor area that we can start pricing and hire to maintain our system.

Lastly, obviously you know we are going to the office on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Committee is going to be there. I will be reaching out to the local chapter and there probably some others who are going to be there, so we will have a good showing. This hearing was not continued it was rescheduled. Once this is behind us we will move on to the civil. We have the civil against Bessie herself and ultimately we are looking at more retribution monetarily whether in the form of cash or a lien against property or both. We also still have the suit against the husband and father-in-law. Right now they still stand firm and won't budge. They will pay us \$60,000 for the land and my counter was they had to also pay the attorney fees but they won't budge. So if the board wants we can agree to that and we will be out of that law suit and the legal fees will there will stop. We would get the \$60,000 and I think our legal fees are somewhere between \$9,000-10,000 so we would still come out ahead. I have also asked our attorney to ask the DA if we get anything from this case that it is not held against what is owed per statute of limitations because our attorney reminded the DA that local law enforcement drug their feet and the 6-7 month delay when filing charges, that time period cost us \$12,000 or more. Our attorney also reminded the DA/prosecutor what we found was with the paper trail and there may be more so we don't want this \$60,000 to go towards the money Bessie owes us. This is separate.

Mid-West Conference (DC) you mentioned earlier that they offered \$60,000 for the property but what is the value of the property?

(DJ) It depends. We have gotten two appraisals. One is about \$60,000. The other, if you subdivide the property it would be worth a lot more, about \$200-250,000. Our attorney told us though that a judge would have to decide if that is appropriate and our attorney said that can be very expensive because the judge can say no its only worth \$60,000 and half would still be Bessie's!! So the judge could reduce what we would get.

BOG (RM) is there a way we could stipulate that the sale is not connected to her case? I think we should wait to see what happens on the 4<sup>th</sup> before we make a decision.

(DJ) Nothing will happen until after the criminal case is done.

(RM) I think we should take the \$60,000 then go after the rest if they sell the land off for restitution.

(DJ) The money for the land is coming from Bessie's father-in-law and he is under no obligation to use any money he may get if he decides to subdivide and sell it for paying Bessie's bills. Also, I want to thank Jana, she is the one who saw the sale after we had filled the law suit.



I just wanted to give an update. We are not making any decisions on settling until after the criminal portion is done. We are then going to move forward and the first thing we will have to address is this land and the suit against the father-in-law and the husband.

Finally, I didn't put the proposal in but I'd like to make a motion for 2019 Any Blue Knight member that is in the military reserves, called to active duty (mobilized or deployed) would be eligible to not pay dues for the year 2019.

Great Lakes Region Conference (DH) Seconds.

(DC) Can we legally do that with the way we had set up the agenda etc. after our last meeting?

(DJ) Actually I can do it like this, John , Karen, Jim do you have objections to this?

Vice-President (KB) No.

Secretary (JB) No.

Treasurer (JRB) No. I would suggest we make it a permanent proposal.

(DC) I wholeheartedly support it. I just want to make sure we are doing it right.

(DJ) No you're right. If Jim, Karen and John have no objections then I'd like to make the proposal.

(JRB) I would make it permanent, that from now on, if they are active duty then the dues are waived.

(DJ) Ok I'd like to amend my motion that unless and until the board changes it, every year any member who is a member of the reserves and gets mobilized and deployed, we pay their dues. GLRC will you second that?

(DH) I will. GLRC seconds the motion.

Vote is unanimous. No opposed and no abstentions.

**Office Manager – Jana Clark:**

(JC) I don't have a whole lot. I have been getting in some renewals for 2019. The only issue is they are not sending in the chapter renewal worksheets. They just need to be reminded that they have to send those in as well.

(DJ) I will get with Joe Ball before the end of the year and get you all a list of those who basically need to be prodded to get on this. Some haven't accepted it yet. About 60-70% of the club hasn't even accessed the new system so we need to find out who hasn't done that and reach out to them to see if they need help.

Mason Dixon Conference (MP) I had a request from one of the chapters the other day regarding new members that have come in during this last quarter. Are they still to send the hard copy or can they scan them and send them to International electronically? I believe you are still holding them in the office correct?

(JC) Yeah. We hold the applications.

(DJ) I will tell you this because we have already dealt with an issue this year, I would prefer you mail them in because we have had people who said they sent their apps in and the office never got them. Either someone didn't send them or there is the chance they get lost in the mail. Electronically there could be a computer glitch.

**BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S – Rory MacConnell:**

Greetings to the Board of Directors and all the membership:

First let me report the totals of the special fund payouts for 2018 and the close of business financial report from October 30<sup>th</sup> 2018

**2018 ACCIDENT'S**

**#1 Accident Brian Bylsma TX XXXV accident attending event hosted by another Austin TX \$500**

**#2 Accident Fatality Sister Member Diane Heydon ENG VI at event hosted by FR VI in Spain \$1000**

**#3 Accident enroute to BK Intl. Stone Mtn GA Brian Gadd MN I \$1500**

**#4 Mishap at BK Intl. Stone Mtn. GA Robert Newman FL X \$500**

**#5 Accident returning from BK Intl Stone MTN GA. Kevin Porter WI XI \$1000**

**#6 Accident returning from Fall MWRC Springfield MO. Chris Boener MN II (CK sent Bro Dan \$1500)**

DONATIONS FOR MONTH: OCTOBER \$0.00

**YTD 74 chapters of the over 600 have made a donation to the fund. This is down from last year's 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.**

**14 were for over \$100.00 this is an increase this year for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report.**

**3 individual donations, one from DG promotions from the 2017 BOG cruise of \$1,500.**

**Thank you to all that have contributed this year.**

**It is asked that each Chapter make a yearly contribution of \$25 to the special fund, please try to make these and if you have not, you can always add to next years to catch up for previous years missed.**

**SPECIAL FUND ACCOUNTS:**

Checking Balance carried forward \$ 24,556.27

TOTAL CD VALUE \$ 138,792.14

MUTUAL FUNDS TOTAL VALUE \$ 62,633.97

**GRAND TOTAL SPECIAL FUND = \$226,110.17**

**BOG Operating fund balance = \$ 57.66**

The BOG budget request submitted for BOD approval was for \$11,800.90. This is above the .50 per member total submitted to the International budget committee for 2019. The proposed budget from the committee is \$8,809.00 or 17,618 members at \$.50 per member, as per the BOG by laws.

The cost of the International Conventions have risen, and will most likely continue with inflation as normal.

The BOG Treasurer has adjusted operations of the BOG to cut costs were he could for 20 years now and will continue as far as he can as costs are removed and or incurred.

In researching the history of the BOG budget versus the International budget meetings back to 2007, from the minutes. All but one year I could not locate the proposed amount in 2011.

Anyway each year the BOG has reduced the requested amount submitted to the actual amount given, the savings over 10 years is \$29,486. Each year the \$.50 cents per member figure was never received in its entirety.

The BOG board always worked to reduce that figure to assist international to keep the budget as close to a black line as possible.

As was mentioned in these minutes, numerous times over the years, the BOG did not need excess or a "slush" fund and they never did. Due to the bottom line budgeting when costs were less on all aspects of operations, the BOG was requested to NOT have a surplus in the operating account, and complied with that. We had always taken any surplus from the previous year and reduced that from the amount requested from the international board of directors. The BOG always was under the .50 per member and had little to no surplus and reduced what was left from the next year's budget request.

In the BOG meeting of July 2008 the BOG proposal to increase the conference expense for reimbursement to the BOG officers was passed (see below) this is where the surplus had come from most years, it was allotted within the \$.50 cent per member, and lower convention costs allowed the officers to use this to assist in traveling to the conference meetings, as it was intended. As the budget will be significantly lower this year I want to point out that the officers will travel to as many conferences as possible as always, but maybe not as many as in the past.

**BOG BY LAW**

*Conference Expense: Funds up to \$500.00 will be made available for the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and/or Treasurer for the purpose of attending up to eleven conference events per year with the exclusion of their home conferences. A maximum of \$6,500 per year will be budgeted for attending conference events. (Amended: July 21, 2008)*

I have attached a copy of the flier for the BOG 2019 cruise, which will be September 28<sup>th</sup> thru October 5<sup>th</sup> – 2019. A 7 day cruise out of Miami on Carnival Conquest. Ports are Gran Turk Cayman Islands, San Juan Puerto Rico, St Thomas Virgin Islands, and Amber Cove Dominican republic. All information for booking, deposits and such are listed DG promotions will be handling all bookings and they can get the Carnival VIFP deals as well. We will have hotel information for overnight prior to and return for the group forth coming.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Proposal Number: 2018-0025**

**Purpose:** To strengthen bonds, camaraderie, and communication between Blue Knights members, while also increasing the membership potential of Chapters located in the Great Lakes region along the shores of Lake Erie thereby assisting in attracting new and RETAINING Blue Knight members.

**Background:** In the later part of the 70's it became apparent that in order to facilitate better communication and achieve structure to control the rapidly growing Blue Knights organization it was essential to create a network similar to what we experienced on the job with large expanded area departments. On the job, they were referred to as precincts or perhaps for State Officers, Troops. Each one of these structures having its own organizational structure but then having that structure reporting to an even higher structure. In the Blue Knights those higher structures were given the name Conferences. The first Conference established was the GLRC, defined as all the areas, States and Provinces that bordered along the Great Lakes. This originally would have included both Pennsylvania and New York State as both have borders along Lake Erie.

At the time this was done the Buffalo NY Chapter 5 already existed in Western N.Y. and it quickly became an integral part of the new GLRC, helping to organize and strengthen the new “Great Lakes Regional Conference”. Sometime later the larger Chapters along the East Coast in the City of New York, Trenton N.J. and Philadelphia PA wanted their own Conference and they chiseled both the States of Pennsylvania and New York out of the already formed Great Lakes Regional Conference (henceforth referred to as the GLRC) and along with the State of New Jersey created the Tri State Conference. However, since NY 5 already existed, and was an integral part of the GLRC and stood alone as the only Chapter in Western N.Y at the time, they remained in the GLRC.

It is our contention that we, the City of Erie, are a much better fit to the Great Lakes Regional definition than to an imaginary State line drawn on a map by the Tri State Conference. In support of that we offer the following; the City of Erie, home to PA Chapter 18 is accepted to be, according to the Pennsylvania Tourist Bureau, in the Great Lakes Region of Pennsylvania.. According to their brochure, and I quote “There is a reason we call this area the Great Lakes Region. For starters, the cool, calming lakes have shaped not only the climate but also the small towns and agriculture. From shipping ports to vineyards to hiking and biking trails this region in the western tip of Pennsylvania has a lot going on.” In their brochure they recognize our small-town, friendly-neighbor attitude, they recognize our extremely unforgiving climate, and they recognize our agricultural bonds, bonds that include vineyards and farms that intertwine both into New York and Ohio.

They recognize, as did those who defined the first Blue Knight conference, the kinship of those living around the Great Lakes. Yet Erie, situated directly between two of those GLRC chapters (Cleveland/Mentor’s Ohio Chapter and Buffalo New York’s Chapter 5) and along the shores of the same Great Lake which are both in the GLRC, has been pulled from our family along the Great Lakes, and are now defined not by our association with their members by the stroke of a pen, with the East Coast metropolis’ of Philadelphia, New York City and Trenton.

We understand fully that these Cities along the East Coast have terrible concerns and potentially catastrophic issues due to their size and composition that we, thankfully, just don’t have, but then we also understand that due to our extreme climate and “Lake Affect” we have issues such as 2 to 3 foot snowfalls, or 4-8 inches of snow per day for weeks at a time, that would literally cripple them, that they don’t comprehend. We along the lake shore share these and other concerns and work together from Toledo through Cleveland to Erie and on to Buffalo we survive these issues yearly.

As former and current first responders we worked together with our brothers and sisters in Ohio, and in Western New York all along the shores of Lake Erie to make everyone living and/or passing through the Region Safe.

When the day is done and the work is over we like to get together with those that share these problems with us, to talk, to share ideas and to just plain relax and enjoy life. We go to and

support events they are hosting and they come to and support events we are hosting because we share common interests and common goals throughout the year.

As it is obvious and also recognized that residents in “the Great Lakes Region” of Pennsylvania have more in common with the issues of the Region of the Great Lakes than the issues of East Coast Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey and we ask you our Board of Directors to allow the original definition of the Great Lakes Regional Conference to be amended to include the Great Lakes Region of Pennsylvania as described in the Pennsylvania’s “Visit PA” brochure which lists the counties of Erie, Crawford, Mercer and Venango in Pennsylvania.

**Proposal :** To further define the area encompassed in the description Great Lakes Regional Conference “GLRC” to include the area defined by the official Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s “*Visit PA*” brochure and website; to wit; that Area being the Pennsylvania Counties of Erie, Crawford, Mercer and Venango.

Remove any Chapters that are hosted in that geographical area from the Tri State Conference and place them with the more appropriate Great Lakes Regional Conference. A review of the Tri State directory at this time shows only one Chapters to be involved in this Proposal, that one Chapter would be PA Chapter 18, Lake Erie Blue Knights. That Chapter is already an Associated Members of the GLRC and is total agreement with this proposal and is, in fact, the Chapter making this proposal.

**Intent :** To increase the camaraderie, communication and community involvement and to better develop the ties and lines of communication of those first responders involved in a specific geographical area who are International Blue Knights, thereby stirring an interest for potential new members and retaining the interest of existing members.

**Advantages :** Increased Camaraderie and communication by better defining the area encompassed by the term “Great Lakes Regional” through the recognition of an Area already designated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be in the “Great Lakes Region”, Increased membership potential and better retention of existing members

**Disadvantages :** None noted

**Anticipated Costs :** None

**Suggested By:** Thomas O. Nelson, President  
PA Chapter XVIII  
Lake Erie Blue Knights

**Submitted By:** Rory Mac Connell, Chairman Board of Governors

President (DJ) Rory MacConnell you're the one who submitted the proposal so I'll let you go ahead and start.

BOG (RM) well as I have submitted, Tom or PA 18 had requested the BOG in the summer meeting to have them address this and have the BOG proceed with putting it on the agenda. I messed up that meeting. Under Robert's Rules he filed a protest with us. We investigated it and we did violate Robert's Rules. So Tom rewrote the proposal and submitted it to us. Our board agreed to submit it based on the fact that we screwed it up in the summer and to make it right with the procedure we decided to put it on the BOD agenda. Our board unanimously supported that. We submitted it and Tom is on the call to address this as is proper protocol.

Motion to discuss: BOG (RM), 2nd: West Coast (LO)

Discussion:

Tom Nelson (TN) wanted to first of all point out the last part on the Blue Knights Pledge. He read "The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights" Basically what PA 18 is looking for is just that. He wanted to stress that this was not a knee jerk reaction to anything that was done, nothing negative against Tri-State. This was for the strength of his own chapter. PA 18 was looking for help getting the camaraderie going again. He hopes that the board understands that and supports this proposal.

Tri-State (Keith) Tom in reading your proposal and listening to what you spoken of, it appears that most of your local interest is just in local chapters as opposed to you have people participating from other states quoting Ontario, New York 5 who was grandfathered into the great lakes and Ohio. Is that accurate, is that who you talked about when you say people that support you and people you support?

(TN) basically yea.

(Keith) so those who ride with you are basically Ontario, New York 5 or Ohio?

(TN) most of them are yea. There are also some that are from New York 26 that ride with us. They are associate members of GLRC but they are also members of Tri-State.

(Keith) Uh hum. Ok then has being required to be in Tri-State hindered your relationship your ability to be friends with other chapters in other conferences or other states?

(TN) yes it has and I will explain that. Ashtabula Ohio had a chapter and that chapter went down to the minimum number of members and they had to turn in their chapter and drop it. That city where then chapter was located was in a rescission. They are struggling, there police department for a while was a one man operation only and were in dyer straights. Some members moved into the Erie area. They were able to pick up those as members of his chapter. He then reached out to remaining 6 guys that were still living in the Ashtabula area and ask them if they wanted to join. One of their members said they didn't want to since PA 18 was not in their conference. Those members wanted to stay with GLRC and were thinking of becoming members at large. He would like to get those members into his group and he thinks he would have a much better chance if his chapter was in that conference. If those members wanted to stay active with GLRC but moved to PA18 they would lose their voting rights and the relationships that they are comfortable with. His thoughts on this is that if we can keep a group happy, we can keep a group. If we don't keep a group happy we are going to lose them. We seem to be losing enough people because of the millennium attitude, we don't need to push members away on our own.

President (DJ) can you expound more of why your chapter should be part of the great lakes? As far as geography.

(TN) Basically the City of Erie is in the great lakes and named after one of the great lakes and we are about dead center between Buffalo and Cleveland. Buffalo was already mentioned and has been grandfathered into GLRC. All the chapters in Ohio are in the great lakes and dead center in the middle of all them is the City of Erie that is the only chapter in the region that he is talking about and they are in Tri-State. So all along the great lakes shore lines you have cities that are great lakes conference cities. And for the people in Ontario and Buffalo going to events in GLRC they have to drive through the City of Erie. His chapter is kind of like an island in the middle. And like he said they are on the shores of the great lake. To have his chapter called the Lake Erie chapter and be in a different conference just seems crazy.

(DJ) so you're connected to the GLRC by a body of water.

(TN) absolutely, other chapters sitting along the shore line are in another conference and they are in Tri-State.

West Coast (LO) asked Tom if he could expand on the extreme climate problems that prevents his chapter from participating outside of the GLRC

(TN) for people not from this area you hear about lake effect snow. Last year on Christmas they got 5 feet of snow in one night. The Erie area is known for that. The winter is pretty extensive all winter long. Just in the last few days, they got hit with a lot of snow again.



(LO) so would it be accurate to say that your chapter is physically prevented from participation in Tri-State events for several months out of the year?

(TN) pretty much, you certainly are not going to take a motorcycle anywhere. Granted if you get 60-80 miles out of this area you are ok.

Secretary (JB) as people know, Karen and I did belong to PA 18 and even ourselves we couldn't make meetings and events do to the distance and weather. And when we did attend events, it seemed to be all GLRC members there and no Tri-State members at their events. Their support is the local conference right around them, the GLRC.

(Keith) regarding the weather, is that the same weather that is experienced by Rochester, and Syracuse that are also great lake city's that have a lot of snow.

(TN) absolutely, that's why they don't come to events. The problems would be the same for us if we were trying to go there.

(Keith) is that weather common during the Tri-State business meeting held the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May and Columbus Day weekend in October?

(TN) sometimes it is. His daughter's birthday is May 5<sup>th</sup> and he has many birthday parties for her with snow.

(DJ) are we done asking Tom questions so that we can go to general discussion? Tom stay on the call with us.

Southern (BA) in the letters that were sent to the board, at onetime Ontario chapters 2, 12 and 17 from the GLRC were permitted to leave the GLRC and go to the Northeast Conference. It also says that Texas 3 was allowed to leave the Rio Grande Conference. It also says that New York 5 in Buffalo was permitted to leave the newly formed Tri-State Conference and stay in their original conference which was the GLRC. Is all that accurate?

(DJ) I know Texas 3 went to the Southwest Conference and that they have been there at least 20 years.

Rio Grande (RB) confirms Texas 3

GLRC (DH) also confirms NY 5

(Keith) regarding NY 5, they were kept in the GLRC because they were GLRC members when Tri-State was formed. It would not be fair to have them move.

(DH) that is correct, they were given the opportunity to move and they opted to stay with the GLRC rather to go to Tri-State

(DJ) he does not think we have a grandfather for when locations form. It is up to the international to where the chapters originate. Because in the past, I think this chapter asked to be in the GLRC but were put in the Tri-State

Past President (BF) I was the International President back in 2001 when PA 18 formed, Gary Peirce was his Vice President then. We had lengthy discussions over this whole this issue, First of all, I would like to say this issue of putting PA XV111 in the wrong conference as far as a geographical location is concerned, has been a long standing concern of mine. I must take the blame for this mistake when PA XV111 was formed back in 2001 .The thought process was simply automatic, PA starter kits went to Tri State without any thought of the Lakes area as mentioned. I was the Intl president at that time and I do remember conversations with the office manager and The Intl Vice President Gary Pierce at the time as to why we put them in the Tri State instead of the GLRC .With the Erie PA chapter being on the waters of Lake Erie and even the city named after the lake we decided we overlooked what was designed to be the Great Lakes area. At the time I remember the decision by us to let it be for now with the” see what happens attitude”. So here we are and we can see what happened. I for one do apologize to all concerned But right now, here today we can all make this mistake right again. I will today vote in favor of the proposal to move this chapter where it rightfully belongs, in the Great Lakes conference where it should have been placed at the beginning. I urge all of you to support this proposal and help us correct a past mistake. Additional I have an email here from Gary Pierce who was Vice President at the time and was in charge of starter kits and recruitment and retention and as of just this morning he said: Bob, if memory serves we discussed this, I think it was when you were President and me VP, that originally this chapter should have been in the GLRC, I think Bessie made an error when the charter was issued but we decided to let it go and see what happened. I think all would be better served if they were allowed to move. That’s about I have to say and here we are today.

Southwest Conference (GO) besides the Tri-State in Pa 18, the Southwest may have a little bit at stake itself, this came up in January of 2012. The Westcoast Conference made a grab for Colorado 3 since they were on the western side of the Rockies. The Southwest dilemma today is if this passes he is fairly positive that the Westcoast is going to make another grab for Colorado 3. That being said, he talked to Tom yesterday and other board members today. Just because PA 18 is out of Erie which is on the Great Lakes, Southwest today is prepared to vote for this proposal. But he will ask each and every member of the board that we not make this an automatic. My vote is because they are on Lake Erie it is the GLRC and it should have originally went to the GLRC. He just hopes if and when Southwest Conference is faced with losing a chapter or chapters in the near future we can use specific meanings of why a chapter wants to leave a conference and we are not just going to make this a personally thing. He will support this and just hopes and prays this just would not be an automatic thing in the future.

(DJ) very well said. I agree with you as far as not rubber stamping the requests, and Bob thank you for stepping up to the plate with Bob and Gary Pierce both admitting that this should have

transpired back in the early 2000's and we wouldn't be here. The weather popped up and I can understand why you mentioned that weather but the weather shouldn't be the only factor. Guy you hit it right on the head because sometimes a club would get mad and the next thing you know is that they don't want to be in the same conference or the same chapter and so we would be having this. I think if this passes today we come up with some type of guide line so the members do know that they are going to have to ask for permission and there is due cause and a valid reason why and get inundated with chapters wanting to go to another conference.

Rio Grande Conference (RB) He is going to have to agree with this and put something into effect so this does not set a precedent. It needs to be on a case by case basis.

Mid-West Conference (DC) will be voting in opposition of this for a couple reasons. One is the procedure for which it was brought forth he thinks was improper for the BOG bringing something forward for a chapter. If the BOG had a problem for handling something they should revisit that at their next BOG meeting. With that being said, it is what it is and we are here today and this is what we have. This is my understanding that this has been addressed by this board in the past as a proposal? Is that correct?

(DJ) Yes

(DC) in order to re-visit a proposal that has been done in the past, someone who voted in favor of that proposal has to bring it forward. So and that says procedurally that this already been decided by this board and the procedure of back dooring to get it back onto our agenda I think is improper. Personally my chapter has been in the situation and is in the situation where we are supported by and support the chapters that are near us that are in another conference. Our chapter actually spawned from Great Lakes Conference chapter, we are in the Mid-West. Years ago when Bob Flanagan was in his first term of office as President our chapter wanted to move over to the Great Lakes cause we had problems with things the Mid-West was doing. They wanted to move to the Great Lakes. We were told we could move to the Great Lakes but not with a Missouri rocker. What we done in the past is that we won't attend Mid-West conferences or anything else. So what we done in the past we changed our ways and got involved in the Mid-West and you see today I am a Mid-West Rep. So we actually turned it around and got involved with it changes some things as opposed from running from things. It is also that one of our chapters wanting to go to another conference from the Mid-West, so if I think we allow this we may be opening Pandora's Box and I really don't want to get into that. Our board has mixed feelings on this, but I would think that the best thing could happen here is for the conferences here to agree and make this change, but don't think it's pertinent the BOD force this change. Mid-West will not be supporting.

(DH) what I'm going to say piggy backs off of Doug's. For starters the GLRC supports this move as do a number of chapters within the GLRC itself. One of the things that you touched on Doug was that you want to keep your rocker and that's part of the issue with PA 18. They want

to keep their identity other than just transferring to another chapter that is closer. They feel very strongly tied to the Erie area and they don't want to lose that. We had this discussion in the past when I first became the Great Lakes Rep and I was out at the Tri-State out in Gettysburg. I met with the current board at that time and attempted to come to an amicable decision on this since it's been a long standing issue and Tri-State boards members at that time said absolutely not. So the attempt to work this out between the two conferences I am confident that we would end up in the same position we are at now. The only really down side that I see is the fact PA 18 does not have a vote because they don't and have any involvement with Tri-States business meetings but they do come to the GLRC. As associates they don't have a vote at our conference but they do at the Tri-State. So it's kind of leaving that membership without that voice. Really as the board is it not up to us make sure our membership is represented? So my recommendation is if unfortunate the conferences could not work this out then maybe we need to make this right and keep the members we know that want to participate and just relocate them to a different conference. I agree we shouldn't make this a Pandora's Box and open it up for anyone who wants to jump conferences and definitely be a case by case basis. There has to be merit and not a personality problem.

(LO) Doug I think that in reference to your statement that the BOD has heard this before, since I've been on the BOD, I think that we have not heard this on the merits but in fact because of procedural violations.

Treasurer (JRB) I have been sitting here listening to all this and reading all the letters that went back and forth and I do have a couple of concerns. I think it is opening a Pandora's Box. I think it's an avenue we don't want to go down, but I was on the board originally when this came up and it was voted down. I was voted down because they are a PA chapter which is part of the Tri-State. I don't think they eluded to the fact where there is a couple members in Ohio that they want to get into their chapter. They don't want to come to the chapter because it's within the Tri-State area. Ok well what happens in the reverse of that if we move this chapter to the great lake region and there is a couple officers in the PA area near the chapter but they don't want to go to the chapter because it's in the great lakes region rather than the Tri-State. So those two things kind of cancel each other out. The other issue I have is, this was in fact decided once before and I do feel that this is in lack of a better words a back door of bringing it back because decisions by the board are not appealable unless it's an article 10 and this is not an article 10. This has been decided before. I completely understand, and I understand what PA 18 is going through and the fact they want to go to the GLRC, I just think that allowing that to happen we are going to have a bunch more chapters. We already heard the west coast is going to go for the Colorado chapter, well what happens to some of these others where the chapters are right on the state line? And they identify with that conference because we are a little bit closer to them compared to our own conference. Where is this all going to lead? At some point we have to put our foot down, we have bylaws and procedures that are in place. It's been state boundaries with a few exceptions and those exceptions were allowed way back when. NY 5 was allowed to stay

in the GLRC because the Tri-State has just been formed, they didn't ask to leave the Tri-State, they were in the GLRC. For those issues I just think we are opening a Pandora's Box we don't need to be getting into.

(LO) so several people here have mentioned Pandora's Box, personalities, and this is going to be a common practice. Once again we as board have an issue that is before us where we have no bylaw, no constitution, and no Maine non-profit regulations to give us guidance. If this issue occurred in 2012 then maybe this should have been addressed on reference to guidelines of some type. Maybe we can get that going that there is no Pandora's Box for the west coast grabbing people and state line issues. Why can't we do something to make sure there is none? PA has been doing the best they can since there is no guidelines. Finally we have it before us and it is supported by the BOG.

(Keith) I would just like to summarize that all chapters know that to vote they just simply have to send a representative or the president to the conference meetings. That's where the voting takes place and that's all that is required in order to be represented, a regular member with a letter or a chapter president.

(LO) if the voting occurs when there is 5 foot of snow, how do they get to vote? Is there an option for that?

(Keith) Lisa I have not heard anything or testimony that the 5 foot of snow is the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October or May 5<sup>th</sup>, the first weekend in May. The GLRC also has meetings that occur during winter months. The GLRC that I attended that Erie hosted there was lots of snow on the ground. And we all went and members of the Tri-State that went and attended their event.

(LO) I thought that Tom has said that May was his daughter's birthday and there was snow and sometimes it was common in October. The point is that they can't get there to vote then that's not going to work.

(Keith) I don't think that that's what I see, that any conference where you have meetings between October and May.

(JRB) you can have inclement weather anytime of the year

Secretary (JB) called the question and called for a roll call vote. A "yes" vote is allowing PA 18 to become the GLRC Conference. A "no" vote is keeping them in the Tri-State Conference.

**Roll Call Vote. 10-4-1 Proposal Passes.  
(Note: Northeast Conference not on call)**

<b>Conference:</b>	<b><u>Y</u></b>	<b><u>N</u></b>	<b><u>A</u></b>
<b>RGC</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mid-West</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Southwest</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mason Dixon</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Great Lake</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>SRC</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Tri-State</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>North East</b>	<b>(NOT ON CALL)</b>		
<b>UK&amp;I</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Europe</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>West Coast</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Past President</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>BOG</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Treasurer</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>X</b>		

**CONFERENCE REPORTS:**

**European:**

I would like to remind you of our 2019 European Convention which will be held in the beautiful city of Cologne from May 30th 2019 till June 2nd 2019. All info can be found on the European website: [www.blue-knights.eu](http://www.blue-knights.eu). We receive some questions about an email send out by the President of Switzerland II concerning splitting the European Conference. This issue has been on the agenda for 2 years but it until now it has always been on an informative level. As we saw the reactions of the chapters in Europe, there

is no base to split the Conference for the moment, at least not the way it was proposed. The European Board is meeting this week-end where the issue will be discussed and an official statement from the Board will be sent out. We are still growing but we have to stay alert with forming new chapters. We prefer quality above quantity.

### **Great Lakes:**

The 2019 Spring GLRC is being hosted by WI XV, and will be held March 22-24 in Wausau Wisconsin. The host hotel is the Jefferson Street Inn; 201 Jefferson St. in Wausau, WI, phone number is 715-845-6500. Anyone who needs to fly in can land from most airports at the Central WI Airport (CWA). The hotel has free shuttle service from the airport to hotel and back. The room rate is \$109/night plus local taxes. Registration for the event will be \$65 per person until February 1; afterwards cost will be \$70.

The 2019 Summer GLRC is being hosted by OH XXVII, and will be held August 2-4 in Youngstown Ohio. The host hotel is the Hampton Inn Youngstown; West I-80 at SR 46 (880 N. Canfield-Niles Rd), phone #330-544-0660. The room rate is \$95.00 per night and the hotel serves a hot breakfast to guests. Registration for the event is \$60 per person until July 1; afterwards the cost will be \$65.

### **Mason-Dixon:**

No report submitted

### **Mid-West:**

We have a few events coming up in the MWRC and we hope that you can find the time to attend some of them.

### **MWRC Winter Blahs**

Hosted by MN I (Bloomington, MN) February 1 - 3, 2019

[Hampton Inn & Suites](#) 2860 Metro Dr. Bloomington, MN 55425

952-854-7600

Rooms are \$105.00 + tax per night for a king or double queen

Be sure to ask for the Blue Knights room block (Block is good through January 11th at midnight)

Registration is \$15.00 per person by January 11, 2019, \$20.00 per person after that date

Beer, soft drinks, food and snacks will be provided each evening (Bring your own hard liquor)

Hospitality Room will open by 6PM each evening, maybe sooner

Hotel has a "Hot on the House" breakfast buffet served daily

If you have questions, contact Brian Gadd, President MN I at 507- 828-6503 or [bgadd@live.com](mailto:bgadd@live.com)

## **MWRC Spring 2019 Conference**

Hosted by MO III (Chesterfield, MO) June 6 - 9, 2019

[Doubletree Chesterfield](#) 16625 Swingley Ridge Rd, Chesterfield, MO 63017

636-532-5000 or 800-315-5459

Rooms are \$109.00 + tax per night for a Deluxe King or \$119.00 + tax per night for 2 Queens

Be sure to ask for the Blue Knights rate or [use this direct link listed on the MWRC website to book online](#)

The special Blue Knights rate is good only through May 7, 2019 at 5:00PM

Registration is \$85.00 per person, T-Shirts are included with registration if received by May 7, 2019

T-Shirts are available in sizes Small to 5XL

Registration form is fillable on the MWRC website: [www.blueknightsmwrc.com/events.html](http://www.blueknightsmwrc.com/events.html)

If you have questions, contact either Doug Casteel at 314-412-4449 [dougbkmo3@charter.net](mailto:dougbkmo3@charter.net) or Jeff Cook at 314-540-7357 email [blueknightslemc@yahoo.com](mailto:blueknightslemc@yahoo.com)

## **7th Annual Fallen Officers Memorial Ride**

Hosted by MO X (St Joseph, MO), June 29, 2019; See the MWRC for more details as they are released.

## **MWRC Fall 2019 Conference**

Hosted by IA I (Bettendorf, IA) September 12 - 15, 2019

[Hilton Garden Inn](#) 959 Middle Rd., Bettendorf, IA 52722

563-265-2121

Room rates are \$115.00 + tax per night; See the MWRC for more details as they are released.

### **Northeast:**

No report submitted

### **Rio Grande:**

No report submitted

### **Southern:**

Greetings from the south. We are still enjoying nice weather to ride and support our fellow chapters. Please continue to ride safely and join other chapters for their events and fund raisers. We all win...



Dates to remember;

-Spring/2019 SRC Meeting – Mobile, AL, **April 11-14, 2019**. AL II is host. Hotel, Ashbury Suites Hotel, 600 West Interstate 65 Service Road South, Mobile, AL 36608, 251-344-8030. Price per night is \$65 to \$100 (depending on the room) + tax with full breakfast included.

- Fall/2019 SRC Meeting – Pine Mountain, Ga, **October 9-12, 2019**. GA XVIII is host. Mountain Creek Inn, US 27, Pine Mountain, GA.

Please join us for a great time of fellowship and brotherhood at either or both of these meetings.

### **Southwest:**

The Southwest Conference would like to thank California Chapter X for hosting and excellent poker run this past October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018. California Chapter X presented two scholarships during this event.

Arizona Chapter VI just hosted the November Knights gathering in North Phoenix this past weekend, November 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. There were approximately 40 participants this year. The weather was fantastic with temperatures in the mid 70's.

Southwest Conference is having its annual Buster Hummel Memorial Ride this coming January 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> 2019, in Yuma, Arizona. The event will take place this year at the Hilton Garden Inn Yuma/Pivot Point, located at 310 N. Madison Ave, Yuma, Arizona 85364. Phone number is (928) 783-1500. Room rates are \$114 a night, use code BKLEMC.

The Southwest Conference will hold its annual conference from June 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Oxnard Courtyard by Marriott, 600 E Esplanade Drive, Oxnard, CA 93036, and phone (805) 988-3600. Room rates are \$132 a night and the event is being hosted by California Chapter XVII.

### **Tri-State:**

New TSC officers:    Keith Bowers, Chairman  
                                  Dominic Squillace, Vice-chairman  
                                  Myron Joseph, Secretary  
                                  Liz Cook, Treasurer  
                                  Russ Harper, International Rep.

Spring TSC presidents' meeting:    May 4, 2019 @ 1 pm  
  Lacey Community Center  
  Forked River, New Jersey  
  Hosted by New Jersey XI

2019 International Convention:    August 4-9, 2019  
  The Hilton Westchester  
  699 Westchester Ave  
  Rye Brook, New York 10573  
  Hosted by New York II

Fall TSC Convention:                    October 11-14, 2019 (TBD)

**United Kingdom & Ireland:**

No report submitted

**West Coast:**

No report submitted

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

None

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Date and Time: February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 @ 1100 Hrs. Eastern Time**

**Deadline for Agenda items: January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 @ 1600 Hrs. Eastern Time**

**Motion to adjourn: 1<sup>st</sup>: Secretary (JB), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (KB)**