

# **BLUE KNIGHTS® INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MOTORCYCLE CLUB, INC.**

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 @ 0830 Hrs. Eastern Standard Time  
Meeting Area – Atlanta Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort  
(Stone Mountain, GA)**

NOTE: The following is a synopsis of the meeting and not a verbatim transcript. The minutes are a compilation of notes taken by then Board of Governor's Secretary Gus Faella and the review of the available digital recordings of the meeting. The minutes were typed by Brad Tollefson.

- **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Rory MacConnell at 0840 hrs.

- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Rory MacConnell.

Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

- **BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S OATH:** Chairman Rory MacConnell.

"I pledge to represent my Chapter to the best of my ability. I will strive not to allow my personal opinions to interfere with the pursuit of the best interests of the members of my Chapter. I will not vote contrary to the express wishes of the majority of the members of my Chapter on any issue before the Board of Governors."

- **THE BLUE KNIGHTS® PLEDGE:** Vice Chairman Cal Ennals.

"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®."

- **WELCOMING REMARKS:**

1. Introduction of the Board of Governor's Officers.
  1. Gus Faella, Secretary.

2. Cal Ennals, Vice Chairman.

3. Mike Rickard, Treasurer.

Made a special note that Mike Rickard had now served twenty (20) years as BOG Treasurer.

2. Randy Hoagland, President - Georgia XVI (Host Chapter), 2018 Blue Knights® International Convention Chairman.

Welcome everyone and advised members of some housekeeping rules, ie: smoking, glass bottles near pool area, etc.

3. Chairman Rory MacConnell introduced meeting guests.

1. D.J. Alvarez, International President.

2. Jim Borza, International Secretary.

3. Karen Borza, International Vice President.

4. John Bull, International Treasurer.

5. Bob Awtrey, SRC International Rep.

6. Mike Pollinger, MDC International Rep.

7. Roger Byars, RGC International Rep.

8. Guy O'Conner, SWC International Rep.

9. Bob Flanagan, Past International President.

10. Connie Flanagan, Past International President.

11. Ellen Smit, Past International President.

12. Frank Gennari, Past International President.

13. Mike Ripsch, Past International President.

14. Ed Gallant, Founding Father.

15. Chuck Shuman, Founding Father

4. All Current and former members of the military as well as parents or grandparents of members of the military were asked to rise and be recognized.

• **LEGAL UPDATES:** International President D.J. Alvarez.

D.J. gave an update on the Bessie Small Case. He has been forwarding updates to the International Reps and in the Magazine. Bessie's Lawyer asked for another continuance because they want another audit and this request was granted. The defense is arguing the amount she was accused of taking was excessive. While we had to pay for the first audit, the District Attorney's Office is paying for the second audit. The case may be heard on August 12, 2018. We had our attorney file a letter of complainant with the way this case has been handled and the large number of continuances granted.

*NOTE: The first audio stopped recording at the 9:04 minute mark and the end of the legal update was lost.*

• **SWORD & SHIELD MAGAZINE:** Randy Gracy, Publisher.

*NOTE: The audio recording was restarted part way into the report presented.*

Members were advised their mailing addresses should be kept up to date. Presidents should make sure their Chapter members have their correct address on file so they can receive the Blue Knights® Magazine. Unlike first class mail, our magazines are mailed "non-profit. If a magazine is not delivered due to a bad address, it is not returned to

sender which means the International is unaware the magazine was never received or that the address is bad.

- **2017 BOARD OF GOVERNOR’S CRUISE:** Gene & Deborah Fuqua, Texas I.

They spoke briefly on the 2017 Board of Governor’s (BOG) Cruise. Everyone had a good time, looking forward to next year’s cruise. Deborah Fuqua advised she doesn’t receive any monies (profit) for organizing the cruise. Mrs. Fuqua was able to donate \$1,500.00 (USD) to the BOG Special Fund as a result of the cruise.

- **HOUSEKEEPING**

Chairman Rory MacConnell announced there were 140 voting members and proposed a motion that discussion on the upcoming proposals on the agenda be restricted to fifteen (15) minutes.

**A motion was made to restrict discussion on proposals to fifteen Minutes.**

**Motion: Estilo Nieves, New York VI.**

**Second: Ken Delano, Minnesota I.**

**\* MOTION PASSED (Unanimous).**

- **APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION BALLOT COMMITTEE:**

Chairman Rory MacConnell nominated a Ballot Committee, selecting the five (5) people who are members of Conferences not fielding candidates in the election. Those nominated to serve on the Ballot Committee were:

1. D.J Alvarez
2. Jim Borza
3. Karen Borza
4. Gene Fuqua
5. Debbie Nielsen
6. Colette DeFalco

**A motion was made to accept the Ballot Committee as nominated by Chairman Rory MacConnell.**

**Motion: David Nielsen, New Hampshire IV.**

**Second: John O’Donnell, Rhode Island I.**

**\* MOTION PASSED (Unanimous).**

- **2018 BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTION:**

The fourteen (14) candidates for office were each given two (2) minutes to address the meeting prior to the casting of ballots. The ballots had been distributed when the voting members signed in. One hundred and forty (140) ballots were distributed. Those running for positions were

**TREASURER:**

1. Russel Davis, New Jersey XI
2. Myron Joseph, New York IX

*NOTE: The second audio recording stopped at the 19:42 minute mark and the remaining candidate presentations were lost.*

3. Michal Rickard, New York V

**SECRETARY:**

1. Gus Faella, New Jersey XI
2. Brad Tollefson, Louisiana II
3. Glen Wheat, Indiana I

**VICE CHAIRMAN**

1. Andreas Hohendorf, Germany V
2. John Lopotosky, California XXIV
3. Dominic Squillace, Pennsylvania X
4. Lon Strayer, Pennsylvania XII
5. Jim Trachta, Florida IX

**CHAIRMAN**

1. Chuckie Diaz, New York VII
2. Cal Ennals, New Jersey V
3. Rory MacConnell, Florida XVIII

After each candidate was given the opportunity to address the representatives, the ballots were cast and the Election Ballot Committee withdrew to count the ballots.

- **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Secretary Gus Faella.

Roll Call of the Executive Officers, all were present.

**A motion was made to accept the 2017 BOG Minutes as published.**

**Motion: Myron Joseph, New York IX.**

**Second: Doug Casteel, Missouri III.**

**\* MOTION PASSED.**

- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mike Rickard.

Treasurer Rickard gave a full report on the status of the Special Fund (available on the International Web Site).

*NOTE: The audio recording was restarted part way into the report presented.*

It was announced this was the first year the report had been sent out electronically and posted online on the web site. The members were asked to advise if there were any glitches.

**A motion was made to accept the 2017 & 2018 Special Fund Report as published.**

**Motion: David Nielsen, New Hampshire IV.**

**Second: Myron Joseph, New York IX.**

**\* MOTION PASSED.**

The report on the operating account was presented (available on the International Web Site) and it was announced we operated close to our budget.

**A motion was made to accept the 2018 Treasurers Report on the Operating Account as published.**

**Motion: Rick Deal, Florida XVIII.**

**Second: John O'Donnell, Rhode Island I.**

**\* MOTION PASSED.**

In 2018 we have paid out three (3) Special Fund claims. One to a member of Texas XXXV (\$500.00), one was a fatality claim (\$1,000.00) to England VI, and the final was to Brian Gadd, Minnesota I (\$1,500.00), the first payout under the increased amounts approved by the members.

- **VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cal Ennals.**

He thanked members of Georgia XVI for hosting the 2018 International Convention and commented on the high quality of the venue.

He gave the number of conferences/events attended over the past two years.

He commented on the Special Fund and reiterated it is an emergency fund and outlined some things the fund does not cover and asked members to review the Special Fund Guidelines.

He addressed brotherhood, and just because members might disagree, it should not affect the brotherhood.

- **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Rory MacConnell.**

He announced it was his second year on the BOG Executive Board and wanted to thank all who served as BOG Officers and he appreciated all their support and guidance. He announced what conferences/events he attended over the past year. Rory announced he is

sending out all the information from the Board of Director's Meetings to all Chapter Presidents. While the Conference International Representatives are sending out the same information, it's a backup dissemination of information to ensure no one is missed.

The BOG Facebook Group – they have appointed a moderator from each conference. Presidents can contact their conference moderator to gain access to the group. They allow one officer from each chapter access to the group. Currently 218 of 618 chapters (35%) are represented in the group. Rory is aiming for over half by next year. He stressed this is for the communication and dissemination of BOG information only. They will post conference events as well in the events section but not local events.

Rory thanked everyone who ran for office and wished them good luck.

Rory announced the following accomplishments over the previous year.

1. Raised the maximum amount to be paid by the Special Fund to \$1,500.00 (USD) and indicated we would be working on the other proposals today.
2. The International Board of Directors (BOD) is working with a non-profit group in Maine and members of the Maine State Legislature to amend Maine State Law to allow for electronic voting for non-profit organizations. The BOD amended the International By-Laws to allow for electronic voting once the Maine State Law is changed. This will expedite the process and we should have electronic voting for the 2021 Elections. Rory discussed upcoming Proposal 05-2018 which would amend the BOG By-Laws to allow for electronic voting for BOG Officers once the laws regarding electronic voting were changed in the State of Maine. This would allow all chapters to participate in the election of BOG Officers even if unable to attend the annual BOG meeting.
3. The BOG made a number of proposals to the BOD this past year. One proposal submitted by the BOG was extending the notification of the BOD Agendas to thirty (30) days. This provides for more time to disseminate the agenda and receive feedback prior to the BOD meetings.

Rory thanks everyone for their support and for being allowed to serve as Chairman for the past two (2) years. He wished everyone safe travels home and thanks Georgia XVI for hosting the Convention.

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

Proposals tabled last year were withdrawn and resubmitted with changes under new business.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A: REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION:** Pennsylvania XVIII

The BOD had previously denied the request of Pennsylvania XVIII (PA 18) to change Conferences. They are currently members of the Tri-State Conference (TSC) but are requesting to transfer their Charter to the Great Lakes Regional Conference (GLRC). PA 18 is requesting the BOG to submit a request to the BOD for reconsideration in this matter.

*NOTE: Due to the contentious nature of this discussion, the BOG Secretary (Brad Tollefson) elected to switch to a verbatim transcript for this portion of the minutes. Ugh's, Um's, etc. have been omitted.*

**Rory MacConnell, BOG Chairman (RM):** We have got a request for reconsideration from chapter PA 18, from the TSC and I know a lot of you know most of what was going on, what happened in the past. We had a lot of up and down on, this as far as whether it's allowed or not allowed. We went over records, we went over the minutes, we went over by-laws, motion books trying to find somewhere it says for them to have the right to come to us to ask this question. Right. Were on the agenda, I'm going to ask for a motion to allow this to proceed and have them speak and they will also, the TSC has a representative to speak. Before we bring this to the floor I need a motion and a second.

**A motion was made to discuss the BOG to requesting reconsideration from the BOD for PA 18 to switch to the GLRC Conference.**

**Motion: Rick Deal, Florida XVIII.**

**Second: Mike Ripsch, Illinois VII.**

**RM:** Alright, so it's on the floor. At this time for discussion I'm going to let PA 18, representative from PA 18.

**Doug Casteel, Missouri III (DC):** Do we have a vote to hear it?

**RM:** No they're going to come up, it's on the floor so we're going to let them say their piece, we'll let the TSC say their piece and if you have questions for them.

**UNK:** We haven't voted to accept the motion.

**RM:** What's that?

**Jim Storz, New York I (JS):** Point of order.

**RM:** Yeah, we should, I'm sorry, your right we need to have a vote to allow it, I'm sorry, again I'm moving fast. So we have the motion to have this on the floor, so the motion and second, discussion prior to a vote to allow it to be on the floor. Ellen (Smit) and Pam (McClaren) will be taking a standing count on this one please. We're going to ask everyone in favor to allow this to proceed to have them have their discussion on this to present it to you. Now they can, we cannot make a decision, alls we are doing is voting to allow them to discuss it between the two of them, to give people information and then we will vote if we're going to send it to the BOD. That's all we're doing, we're not changing any of the decisions. They're asking to be reheard by the BOD, that's what

this is about. Alright, so if you're not clear they had a situation before, it was voted by BOD. We could not find anywhere where it says they didn't have the right to ask to be reheard. Article X, it's in there but it's not in there about other decisions that were made in this organization by the BOD.

**JS:** Ok, we're getting off point again. There's nothing that says other than Article X that any chapter can bring anything to the BOG for a decision. They get an appeal from the BOD decisions against the Article X. There's a process for that.

**RM:** For Article X.

**JS:** This one, PA, they turned around and had a BOD decision, not an Article X, this doesn't have anything to do with the BOD, they can reapply to the BOD if they want. That's ok, but why are we trying to direct what the BOD made a decision on in doing this with a recommendation.

**RM:** No, we're just, we're just, we're just going to hear them and if they, if this, these, this membership decides, elects to send it back to the BOD for reconsideration then that's what the vote would be for. Now that doesn't mean the BOD even has to put it on their agenda, it's just giving, you send the vote to them.

**UNK:** Take the vote then.

**DC:** I don't believe the BOG should be hearing this. I think it's a waste of our time. We, the BOG has no authority over this. The BOD had the final decision on it. Any appeal to that BOD would have to be to the BOD themselves. This is over a long time span, I think any appeals is way past the timeline for appeal. I feel this is a moot point and we should not be hearing this, thank you.

**RM:** Ok, that's what this vote's for. Ok, so if you agree that it should be forwarded to the BOD and we'll hear them speak and then we'll make a decision if this group will do it. Right now it's just if we're going to proceed. That's it.

**Myron Joseph, New York IX (MJ):** As the two previous voting members for their chapter said, this has no place here at this meeting. We shouldn't even be taking a vote whether or not this goes.

**UNK:** Go to the microphone. Can't hear you. Wait, wait, wait, wait.

**RM:** Hold on, hold on.

**UNK:** Are we going to discuss it or point of order here. If you're going get up and try to take a position then we're discussing it.

**RM:** No, I, yes, so we're going to call the question. If we have, if we have the votes to hear it, we'll hear it. If we don't have the votes then it ain't going. So Ellen and Pam, if



you agree that we should hear this and then take a vote if we're going to send it back to the BOD. That's what we're doing. So if you agree to hear both sides and then we will decide if we're going to send it back to the BOD and let them decide what they want to do with it. If you agree to hear this please stand (counting of votes). Those not in favor of hearing this and proceeding with this at this level, stand (counting of votes).

**A vote was taken whether to allow the previous motion (Motion: Rick Deal, Florida XVIII, Second: Mike Ripsch, Illinois VII) proposed by Pennsylvania 18 to be heard. (A yes vote allows PA 18 to be heard)**

<b>Yes:</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>(To hear PA 18's proposal)</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>(To not hear PA 18's proposal)</b>
<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>132</b>	

**\* PROPOSAL FAILED.**

**RM:** I mean it's a solid majority to not continue with this level, at this level. PA 18, I don't know what else unless the BOD you, as far as the BOG is concerned it was too long, basically to not proceed with this.

*NOTE:* The BOG Secretary (Brad Tollefson) resumed the synopsis format for the meeting minutes.

**B: PROPOSAL # 01-2018:**

To amend the Blue Knights Special Fund administration procedures. ARTICLE 4.  
ELIGIBILITY: To include a passenger on a motorcycle traveling with the "member" who must be one of the following. A spouse, significant other, IE: "to include common law partner and girl / boyfriend", child, step child or grandchild when injured and the member therefore is unable to continue with the trip.

Submitted by: Rory MacConnell, BOG Chairman.

**A motion was made to pass Proposal #01-2018 as presented.**

**Motion: Larry Klink, Minnesota IV.**  
**Second: Lon Strayer, Pennsylvania XII.**

<b>Yes:</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>136</b>

**\* MOTION PASSED.**

**C: PROPOSAL # 02-2018:**

To amend the Blue Knights Special Fund administration procedures. ARTICLE 4. ELIGIBILITY: To include a 2nd motorcycle traveling with the “member” that must be operated by one of the following. A spouse, significant other, to include common law partner, girl / boyfriend, a child, step child, son or daughter in law, or a grandchild. OR the passenger (an immediate family member) traveling on the motorcycle operated by the immediate family member, traveling with the “member” who is therefore unable to continue the trip.

Submitted by: Rory MacConnell, BOG Chairman.

**A motion was made to pass Proposal #02-2018 as presented.**

**Motion: Mike Pollinger, Delaware I.**

**Second: Dominick Squillace, Pennsylvania X.**

<b>Yes:</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>130</b>

**\* MOTION PASSED.**

**D: PROPOSAL # 03-2018:**

This was only to be addressed if the Article 4 proposal passed. To amend the Blue Knights Special Fund administration procedures Article 6. To allow for an increase in the special fund payment from the maximum allowed of \$2,000.00 per incident, but must also be in the circumstances as defined for a payout from the special fund. The criteria will not be adjusted, and will be for each member’s individual case. The ultimate decision will be at the discretion of the Board of Governors executives.

Submitted by: Rory MacConnell, BOG Chairman.

**Doug Casteel, Missouri III:** Pointed out a grammatical error in the motion. In the “ADD section B)” paragraph, the second line “outlined in article 4 exist.” Was incorrect. The word “exist” should be “exists”. The change was made prior to the vote.

**A motion was made to pass Proposal #03-2018 as presented.**

**Motion: Deanno Piedimonte, Quebec I.**

**Second: Robert Conway, Georgia XVIII.**

<b>Yes:</b>	<b>128</b>
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No: 2  
Abstain: 0  
TOTAL: 130

**\* MOTION PASSED.**

**E: PROPOSAL # 04-2018:**

To amend the Blue Knights Board of Governors By-Laws addressing a voting process for the election of the Board of Governors officers.

Add to ARTICLE 5. VOTING RIGHTS –

5 A) Election of officers will be in a ballot format.

A ballot counting committee will be assigned and then approved by the members in attendance at the commencement of the election meeting. Members of the counting committee should not be in attendance representing and voting for a chapter, if possible.

1) The BOG Secretary will compile a ballot of all nominees after May 1st and with the approval of the current board officers print sufficient balloting forms for the election.

2) Ballots will be sequentially numbered on watermarked paper listing all candidates in alphabetical order (Last name) for each office as needed. After the name will be a box to record the selection of the member.

3) The Secretary will secure the ballots until surrendered for distribution to the verified voting members in attendance.

4) All candidates will be given time to address the membership, time limits to be determined by Chairman. At the completion the members will record their votes, fold the ballot in half and surrender to the ballot counting committee.

Submitted by: Rory MacConnell, BOG Chairman.

**A motion was made to pass Proposal #04-2018 as presented.**

**Motion: Rick Deal, Florida XVIII.**

**Second: Pam McClaren, Pennsylvania XIII.**

Yes: 128  
No: 1  
Abstain: 1  
TOTAL: 130

**\* MOTION PASSED.**

**F: PROPOSAL # 05-2018:**

To amend the Board of Governors by laws to allow ballot procedures for electronic transmission voting of the Chapters only for election of the Board of Governors officers. This is to be in line with the International by laws to allow for electronic ballots for the BOG executive officer elections, once it is a law in the State of Maine nonprofit laws.

NOTE: This is only to be in place once the State of Maine nonprofit laws are amended to include electronic balloting. This is so we do not have to pass this once the law changes in the State of Maine. We can go right to electronic voting, if passed by the members.

**A motion was made to pass Proposal #05-2018 as presented.**

**Motion: Rick Deal, Florida XVIII.**

**Second: Albert Riccio, Florida III.**

<b>Yes:</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>132</b>

**\* MOTION PASSED.**

• **2018 BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTION RESULTS:**

D.J. Alvarez, Ballot Counting Committee

250 Ballots were printed, all were accounted for.

141 Ballots were cast by the members of the BOG present.

They only announced the winners and did not disclose the vote count. Anyone who wants to know the vote count can see the members of the Ballot Counting Committee.

The BOG members on the floor decided to not to publicly release the vote count.

The tally sheet was in the box with the ballots.

The results were,

CHAIRMAN: Rory MacConnell, Florida XVIII

VICE CHAIRMAN: Jim Trachta, Florida IX

TREASURER: Michal Rickard, New York V

SECRETARY: Brad Tollefson, Louisiana II

If someone wishes to challenge the election results they must notify the BOG Chairman in writing prior to Thursday, July 19, 2018 @ midnight.

**A motion was made, in the event of no challenge to the election results, the ballots**

shall be maintained until midnight, this Thursday (July 19, 2018) and then to destroy the ballots.

**Motion: Doug Casteel, Missouri III.**

**Second: Koen Hutse, Belgium VI.**

**\* MOTION PASSED (Unanimously).**

Rory MacConnell asked the members of the Ballot Counting Committee to stay after the meeting to provide the vote count for anyone who wanted it.

- **2019 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE:**

Michele Digiansante, New York II.

Flyers were distributed to members.

*NOTE: The third audio recording stopped at the 1:24:16 minute mark while the flyers were being distributed but before the convention update began. The remainder of the meeting was lost.*

Convention Dates: August 03-08, 2019

Location: Rye Town Hilton Hotel, Westchester, NY

Hotel Phone: (914) 939-6300.

Room Rate: \$140.00 (usd) per night.

Registration: \$180.00.

See the New York II web site for further information ([blueknightsny2.org](http://blueknightsny2.org)).

- **2020 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION BIDS:**

David Buckley, Ireland I

Ireland I presented a bid. Thiers's was the only bid.

**A motion was made to accept the bid from Ireland I to host the 2020 International Convention.**

**Motion: Freddy Allen, Maryland I.**

**Second: Don Cambisi, New York IV.**

**\* MOTION PASSED.**

- **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

None.

- **NOTIFICATION OF THE NEXT BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING:**

The next Annual BOG Meeting will be held in White Plains, NY on Monday, August 05, 2019 at 9:00 am (est).

- **MEETING ADJOURNMENT:**

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion: Dominick Squillace, Pennsylvania X.**

**Second: Mike Pollinger, Delaware I.**

**\* MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:19 am (est).

A COPY OF THE RECORDED MEETING IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

NOTE: With the exception of the portions of the meetings not recorded as indicate above.