

Monday, May 26th

BLUE KNIGHTS®FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

Message from your President

Greetings Fellow Knights,

Things are heating up in beautiful South West Florida as we enter into May. We still have some good riding days ahead but you need to prepare yourself for the warm weather.

As always stay hydrated and take frequent breaks. Use plenty of sunscreen, UV protected clothing, cooling clothes like neck wraps soaked in water. Take advantage of cool morning and evening rides.

We are truly blessed to live in an area where we can ride all year but the heat is no joke!! As always Mother Nature will dictate our riding schedule. As we head into the next few months we will see some rain (Finally) so always look for cancelations Via email and Facebook. Safety and the wellbeing of our members first.

I invite all our members to get involved and come out to ride, eat, laugh and get to know your brother and sister knights. You get what you give and you definitely will receive a great time with fellow knights with minimal effort.

I am looking for members who want to host rides and events. I have some road trips planed and need some help to keep things rolling for the chapter while I am away. Step up and plan a ride I think you will truly enjoy the experience of leading a ride.

In six months we will be starting our chapter elections. All the executive officers positions on the board will be up for reelection. Now is the time to think of stepping up and taking the reins to run this chapter. Get involved and take a position. It will give you the opportunity to make changes that you might think need to be made. Get off the couch and let somebody else Monday morning quarterback for a change. This is your club get involved to keep it going.

If you have any questions about any position each and every board member will gladly explain what they do. We will show you how it is done and help you learn and grow.

FL XVIII just hit it's 30th anniversary get on board to keep it going for 30 more.

Ride with Pride

Patrick Gibbons

President, FLXVIII



May Ride and Event Schedule

BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNERS WILL TAKE PLACE RAIN OR SHINE RIDES ARE SUBJECT TO MOTHER NATURE'S APPROVAL

Tuesday 5/6

Monthly Chapter Meeting. 2nd floor of the Shrine 600 N Beneva RD, Sarasota. CANCELLED



Friday 5/9— 9:00 AM

"Shootout with Bobby G."
Knight Trail Park
3445 Rustic Rd Nokomis 34275.
We can grab lunch afterwards. If you are interested please email bgrotz2@yahoo.com and copy President Gibbons at GIBY1969@comcast.net

Saturday 5/17 — 9:00AM

Breakfast at Skillets 8635 S Tamiami Trail, Sarasota Ride after breakfast

Sunday 5/25 — 9:30AM

Ride to Bok Tower with Jim Thomas Meet at 7/11 12060 US301 & Fort Hammer Road Parish, FL 34219

Saturday 5/31 — 10:00AM

Lunch at destination TBD Meet at WAWA SR 70E & Lorraine Rd KSU at 10:15AM





OUR PLEDGE

"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 LAW ENFORCEMENT MOTORCYCLING COMMUNITY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.THE FRATERNAL SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS GUIDE ME IN RELATING TO OTHER BLUE KNIGHTS"

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MAY 2025

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT PATRICK GIBBONS
VICE PRESIDENT JAMES THOMAS
TREASURER JOHN EMRICK
SECRETARY DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO
SERGEANT AT ARMS JAMES RYAN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SID JONES / PAST PRESIDENT TRACY DUNN BOBBY GROTZ

OPERATIONS

JAMES KIRKPATRICK / CHAPLAIN

DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / WEBMASTER

BRIAN MACCONNELL / QUARTERMASTER

JIM KELLY / SAFETY OFFICER

DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / NEWSLETTER

We need and want your input

Send your letters, suggestions, or any special event you would like to share to:

Patrick Gibbons

pjgibby1969@comcast.net

Jim Thomas <u>alexandjay1988@gmail.com</u>

Dom Ceccanecchio dcc444@comcast.net



In the Chapter Market

Jim Ryan — Woodworking made to order.

Tell me what you want, size, and specific wood (if requested) and I will make it. Very reasonable prices.

941-313-1363 or irvanretired@aol.com













2016 Harley Davidson FLSTFBS "Fatboy" All Black, 25645 Miles. Price - \$ 12,000.00. Purchased from Rossiter's HD August 15, 2022 and has been garage kept everyday. Price includes a brand new windshield still in the box, never opened. Contact John Emrick at 410-991-8161 (okay to leave a message) or mddre3077@aol.com







Brand new wind rider seat cover. Fits all HD. Does not fit the Indian seat. Paid eighty. Will take fifty. Had it for a year but never sent it back. Been busy. Call 941-334-3338. Never been ridden on. Tommy from our sister chapter has one and swears it's the best ride you'll get.











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MAY 202!

































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On November 8, 1918, US Army Corporal Roy Holtz was ordered by his Captain to take him in the sidecar Harley Davidson on a night mission near Germany during WWI. Holz was one of the drivers of the motorcycle division in the Army. Harley Davidson had built 20,000 motorcycles specifically for support of the war.

Corporal Holtz took the Captain on the excursion in the area he was familiar with near Belgium but the Captain persisted they were going the wrong way forcing Holtz to drive into the enemy territory of Germany.

They approached a farmhouse with light coming from the windows. Holtz's Captain told him to knock on the door and ask directions. The disgruntled Corporal approached the door as ordered. When it opened, he instinctively stepped in, out of the rain, and was met with German soldiers. They were both captured and held. Holtz grumbled "See what your blasted directions got us into?"

The important date of November 8 and their capture was perhaps the reason they were held rather than eliminated. There had been rumors of the Armistice and as you know it was later signed on the 11th day of the 11th Month 1918 and the war ended. This is why we honor our veterans every November 11 and a convenient date of when Holtz and his Captain were released without harm. Holtz was the only soldier ever to drive a Harley Davidson into German territory.

Interestingly, Roy Holtz was from Wisconsin and lived in a city near my current residence there.

Compliments of Rodney Stearns



Blue Knights. International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.



BLUE KNIGHTS®FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



It is again that time of year when scholarships become available. This year International is offering five \$1000 scholarships.

From your Scholarship Chairman, Gary Pierce

Greetings Fellow Blue Knights,

Realizing that the youth of today will be the future of tomorrow, the purpose of this scholarship is to assist with the continued education and further development of those potential leaders. Blue Knights® International will make available five (5) \$1000 USD academic scholarships to immediate family members of the organization. Since we are a law enforcement organization, scholarships may also be applied for the applicant to attend a basic law enforcement academy. This scholarship is limited to those 25 years of age or younger on May 1,20253.

For the purpose of this scholarship, "immediate family members" shall be described as:

- · Son / stepson
- · Daughter / stepdaughter



ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED AND HOW TO APPLY IS ON THE INTERNATIONAL WEB PAGE UNDER "SCHOLARSHIPS".

· Grandchild / step grandchild Also offered is the Ed Gallant Memorial Scholarship. This \$1000 scholarship is for any Blue Knight enrolled in a masters or doctorate program.

I encourage you all to spread the word on these scholarships. In the past we have had over 40, last year we had only 9. So, what is the problem? Some members did not even know about them. Why is that? All of us need to take the responsibility to spread the word.



2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Sunparks Kempense Meren June 29th - July 4th, 2025







Accommodations range from airy rooms with terraces and flat-screen TVs, to separate cottages with kitchens, sleeping up to 10 ppl. Some cottages are bi-level and offer fireplaces and/or saunas. Water park access is included. Amenities: A café, outdoor pool, kids' club and beach access. Bike rentals and massage treatments can be arranged.















REGISTRATION €180.00 or \$190.75 USD

INCLUDES

Welcome Packet, Wednesday dinner, Thursday Banquet dinner, Live Music, Surprise event, Meeting costs, Sales room, Free access to FUNPARK (swimming pool & fun...)

BREAKFAST

You can book a breakfast package. Prices depend on length of stay.

Adult 7 days - €77.00 or \$81.61 USD

Kids 3-12yrs old €42.50 or \$45.05 USD

Adult 5 days - €62.00 or \$65.72 USD Kids 3-12yrs old €34.00 or \$36.04 USD OTHER MEALS:

There are 3 restaurants and a supermarket on site. If you rent a house with a kitchen, you have the possibility to book a kitchen package as well.

Waterloo, the last battlefield of Napoleon Bonaparte I, Fort of Breendonk of WWII, Beautiful Brussels, the Antwrep Castle and The Ghent Castle of Belgium.





MAY 2025

May Chapter Meeting



THE MAY CHAPTER MEETING IS

CANCELLED

COME OUT EARLY, HAVE DINNER AND CHAT WITH YOUR BROTHER KNIGHTS

Job Opportunity

School District of Manatee County - School Guardian Program

Position Title: Safety Guardian- PIPELINE

Guardian training and certification with the Sheriff's Office starts in July for the next school year.

So, what is a School Guardian? Armed security that protects students and staff at an assigned school. The main function of a guardian is to stop and abate an active shooter situation. The program looks for experienced security personnel usually retired law enforcement / military background as a priority. The schedule follows that same as teacher, 196 workdays a year, with summers off, Thanksgiving week off, two week Christmas break and One week for Spring Break. Participants in the Florida (FRS) Retirement System, where you are vested after 8 years of service.

If anyone is interested in applying for the school guardian positions, we were approved to hire 19 more guardians. Application link is below;



If this interest anyone, you can contact Jimmy Kirkpatrick for more Information.



BLUE KNIGHTS FLORIDA XVIII

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - MINUTES 2024

April 1,

7:00PM - 2nd floor Sahib Shriners, 600 N Beneva Rd, Sarasota FL

President: Patrick Gibbons - Vice President: James Thomas - Treasurer: John Emrick - Secretary/Webmaster: Dom Ceccanecchio Sergeant At Arms: James Ryan - Past President: Sid Jones - Director: Bob Grotz - Director: Tracy Dunn

Quartermaster: Brian MacConnell - Chaplin: James Kirkpatrick - Safety Officer: Jim Kelly

BLUE KNIGHTS®FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

Meeting Call to Order: by President Gibbons @ 7:00PM

In attendance: Executive officers: 3 Officers: 2 Members: 18 Guests:2

Pledge of Allegiance: led by President Gibbons

Invocation: by John Chuisano

Welcoming Remarks: by President Gibbons.
PRESIDENTS REPORT: PATRICK GIBBONS

- 4/26 Chapter FL XVIII 30th Anniversary Party/ Blue Knights Appreciation Day Berts's Black Widow Harley Davidson and the Twisted fork Restaurant, 2224 El Jobean Rd Port Charlotte 33948. Bert is giving us another Salute For Service / Appreciation day and is incorporating the Blue Knights FL XVIII 30th anniversary party. Free lunch and VIP treatment, live music, store discounts. 11:00 AM Southern meet up spot. Wawa 19289 Times Circle Venice 34292 KSU 11:15 AM Look for the Northern meet up spot closer to the date (to be announced by email) Need an RSVP by 4/18 to President Gibbons. Guests welcome.
- Thursday May 29th Thunder By The Bay appreciation event. President Gibbons sent out the RSVP email. You have to sign up by using the link on the email. It says purchase tickets, it will come up as free when you complete filling out the form. You need the tickets to enter. RSVP by May 23rd. A \$2000.00 donation was made to TBB.
- The raffle gun was returned we have a store credit. (Gift Card) had to do this so we did not have to pay a \$50.00 restocking fee.
- Let President Gibbons know if you want to head up a ride or any event! Tell him what, where, when. You plan it out and carry it out. You plan the route. Do a bike knight event, poker run, charity rides, ice cream run, pizza night. If you can give itto President Gibbons before the 18th of each month. If its a last minute thing no problem we will get it out to the membership.
- Honorary membership. Potential new honorary. Need to keep up recruiting efforts.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: JIM THOMAS

See description and purchasing details in the newsletter.

TREASURERS REPORT: JOHN EMRICK

Motion to accepted March treasurers report: Motion Brian MacConnell 2nd Dan Thompson, all approved

Financial Position: All of the specific financial numbers will be available by request to our Treasurer.

SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO N/A

Motion to accept March minutes John Chuisano, 2nd Dan Thompson, all approved.

SAFETY OFFICER: N/A - Check your tires before you ride and cover up in the summer sun.

CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK: N/A

SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT:

See Newsletter for details.

NEW BUSINESS: Beyond Bikes has a new repair shop @ 6224 31st St Esat.

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK AND DISTRESSED MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.

Jeffrey Longwell Geri Buscemi Rick Deal George Anderson

50-50 DRAWING: Amount: \$70 Winner: Rodney Sterns \$35

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Time: 7:35PM, Motion: John Chuisano 2nd: Brian MacConnell, all approved

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, May 6th, 2024 HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Submitted By: Domenic Ceccanecchio, Secretary BK XVIII





VP JIM THOMAS MESSAGE

BYLOWE KANA



BLUE KNIGHTS®FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

MAY 202!

Hello brothers and sisters,

I am taking orders for our newly designed chapter tee shirts.

You can order them at our monthly chapter meeting or you can email me your request. Details:

- ⇒ The cost per shirt is \$20 regardless of type or size.
- ⇒ We are only purchasing shirts based on your orders.
- ⇒ We would like to have payment upfront before we place the order.
- ⇒ Colors and sizes are listed below.

Colors: Pastel Blue / Silver / White

Men's Tee: Sleeveless Long sleeve Sizes: XS - 4X Ladies Tee: Tank Long sleeve Sizes: XS - 2X



Well, I'm sure that most of you are aware by now that the meeting has been canceled for next month. The heat cometh. Alex and I spent some time on the bikes this weekend and came back after four hours of riding and collapsed under the ceiling fan. Time to load up the bike with Water and essentials to make sure that we are protected from the heat.

I've had a busy year as some of you are aware, having buried a brother, a biological father, the father I grew up with and a mother. I have been working 50 to 60 hours a week as much as 3 to 4 overnights a week and weekends unrelenting. Moved twice and built a home. Needless to say I found that I have not had a whole lot of time in the past year for additional things. The chapter needs to start looking towards officers who are retired and can spend their time working on chapter business. I will not be running for vice president in the upcoming election. I'm still working and simply do not have time to honor that type of commitment. It was my pleasure to fulfill the request of Patrick, who asked me to be the vice president When Rory stepped down, but this position needs somebody who can dedicate a lot of time to it. With that being said, it's been a pleasure being the vice president but I intend to sit in the middle of the rows and watch the show.

The last thing in the world I want to do is for somebody look at me and say "you don't do anything" after having buried four members of my family in a year and all the other transitions I've had. I will continue to ride as commitments allow and do whatever tasks the new panel of officers ask of me. This will be my last entry as V.P. God bless and I will see you at the June meeting or on a ride before.

Jim Thomas

Our Chaplainz Page



BLUE KNIGHTS®FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



Easter is a time of profound joy and reflection, a sacred season that reminds us of the power of hope, the promise of new beginnings, and the triumph of life over death. As we gather to celebrate the resurrection of Christ, we are invited to embrace the renewal He brings—not only to our spirits, but to every aspect of our lives.

May this Easter bless you with peace that surpasses understanding, joy that fills your heart, and love that overflow into every relationship. May you feel the light of the risen Christ shining in your life, guiding your steps, lifting your burdens, and renewing your faith.

Let this season be a reminder that no matter how dark the days may seem, the dawn of resurrection is always near. Just as the stone was rolled away, so too can the barriers in our lives be lifted by grace and mercy.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Easter filled with hope, healing, and endless joy.

Jimmy

May God Bless You!

LIFE'S CHALLENGES ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO PARALYZE YOU, THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO HELP YOU DISCOVER WHO YOU ARE



Chaplain Jimmy Kirkpatrick



Heaven 1

Farewell and God bless
Brother George Anderson
who passed on to Heaven 1
on April 23rd, 2025





MAY 2025



SICK AND DISTRESSED

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK AND DISTRESSED MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.

GEORGE ANDERSON

GERI BUSCEMI

CHRIS SCARDINO

RICK DEAL



MAY 2025





















EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mike Shockley - Chairman Randy Hoagland - Vice-Chairman Bob Awtrey - International Rep Justin Hartley - Secretary Al Fryer - Treasurer THE SRC REGION INCLUDES:

Alabama Baha Florida Berm Georgia Puerto Louisiana Virgir Mississippi South Carolina

Bahamas Bermuda Puerto Rico Virgin Islands

SRC WEBSITE— https://srcknights.org/ NEWSLETTER: https://srcknights.org/

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MAY 2025

SRC Fall 2025 Conference September 14-17, 2025

(Sunday - Wednesday)

Hiawassee, GA

Hosted by GA XXII



https://bksrcfall2025.com/

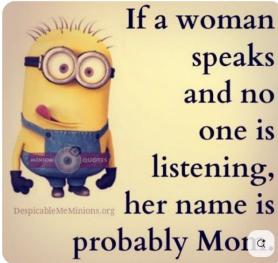




MAY 2025



My Mom taught me:
Religion......."You better pray that comes out of the carpet"
LogicBecause I said so, that's why"
Irony......."Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about"
Wisdom......"When you get to my age you'll understand"
Justice.........."One day you'll have kids, I hope they turn out just like you!!"
Repost this if your mom taught you well..



- May Day is a public holiday celebrated on the first of May or the first Monday in May (in the United Kingdom). It is an ancient festival marking the first day of Summer (the current day is in Spring) with dancing, singing, and cake!
- At one point, May was once considered a bad luck month to get married. There was a poem that said, "Marry in May and you'll rue the day."
- May is named after the Greek goddess Maia, the Greek Goddess of Spring. The Romans had a similar goddess named Bona Dea where they would hold a festival in the month of May for her.



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RETIRED LEO & MEMBER OF BK FL XVIII

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Greg and Cynthia Brock Broker/Owners