



Happy Easter

Sunday 20th April



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Greetings Fellow Knights,
Happy Spring all. With the rest of the country starting to thaw out it's that beautiful time of the year on the Suncoast when the traffic starts to lessen and the lines at the restaurants shrink a little bit. Unfortunately, our chapter Snow Birds also migrate back until next fall. I will miss our part time family and I wish everyone a safe and happy Spring and Summer.

Our chapter is celebrating our 30th anniversary this month. Our friends at Bert's Black Widow Harley Davidson and the Twisted Fork restaurant are throwing another Blue Knight's appreciation day and FL XVIII anniversary party. Save the date Saturday 4/26! Food, live music, store discounts, and fellowship.

I delivered our donation to the Suncoast Charities for Children. This year the chapter voted on donating \$2000. This is double from our last donation.

I am so proud of FL XVIII. We raised a lot of money with our raffle. The time and effort put into this raffle, and the work done at the fairgrounds at Thunder By The Bay payed off. I Would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets and assure you the funds that were raised are going to help many children with special needs in our community. We are set for our Christmas kid's, Veterans, and local LEO's as well. Take a bow you deserve it thank you all.

We still have a few good weeks left to fit in some rides as always the closer we get to summer the more chances for rain, pop up storms and oppressive heat. Keep an eye out for canceled rides via email, Facebook and riders group text. As usual breakfast, lunch and dinner will always go on rain or shine.

Ride with Pride
Patrick Gibbons
President, FLXVIII



April Ride and Event Schedule

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

Tuesday 4/1 — 5:30 PM

Dine at the Shrine / Hot Sands Tiki Bar
600 N Beneva RD, Sarasota

Tuesday 4/1 — 7:00 PM

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

Saturday 4/5 — 9:00 AM

Breakfast at Der Dutchman
3713 Bahia Vista St Sarasota 34232

We can take a ride after (Arcadia Bike Fest is going on)

Friday 4/11— 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



Wednesday 4/16 — 11:30 AM

Lunch at Fuzzy Taco Shop
2515 University Pkwy Sarasota.

Saturday 4/26 — 12:00PM

Chapter FL XVIII 30th Anniversary Party
& Blue Knights Appreciation Day

Bert'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.

Northern meet up spot to be announced

Please RSVP President Gibbons by 4/18. He needs a headcount for the food and seating. Guests permitted.





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”

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

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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 jryanretired@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



We need and want your input

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

Patrick Gibbons
pigibby1969@comcast.net

Jim Thomas
alexandjay1988@gmail.com



Dom Ceccanecchio
dcc444@comcast.net

SEND YOUR SALE ITEMS TO ADD TO OUR MARKET



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"

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025





Blue Knights® International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

APRIL 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, 2025.*

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

- Son / stepson
- Daughter / stepdaughter
- 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.



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

Blue Knights® Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club 1st Issue 2025

News Fraternal Spirit Community

Election 2025

BIOS of INTERNATIONAL CANDIDATES

2027 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION BIDS ARE OPEN

Notice of 2025 Annual Meeting

FLORIDA I Celebrates 50 Years

England VII Remembrance Ride
Heaven I Transfers

TEXAS V VEST
Found in Sweden Stars Returned

GERMANY VII Celebrates 30 Years

News from the Top Brass
Chapter News from Around the World, photos & more!

www.blueknights.org

2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

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



HOST HOTEL

Village Sunparks Kempenske Meren
Postelsteesteenweg 100, 2400
Mol, Belgium Phone: +32 14 81 72 52



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.

VISIT HISTORICAL SITES

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



April Chapter Meeting



**THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS
7:00PM ON TUESDAY, APRIL 1st, 2025
2ND FLOOR OF THE SAHIB SHRINE
600N BENEVA RD SARASOTA.**

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;

[Human Resources / Careers](#)

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





March Chapter Meeting Minutes

BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

Meeting Call to Order: by [President Gibbons](#) @ 7:07pm

In attendance: Executive officers: 4 Officers: 2 Members: 22 Guests:5

Pledge of Allegiance: [led by](#) President Gibbons

Invocation: by Jim Kirkpatrick

Welcoming Remarks: by President Gibbons who introduced several visitors.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: PATRICK GIBBONS

- Membership cards are being distributed at the monthly meetings and events. You can send President Gibbons a self-addressed stamped envelope and he will mail it to you or you can also have a friend pick it up for you.
- Thunder By the Bay took place and went well. Beautiful weather and great ride. The ride stopped at the Haven and was much appreciated by the residents. The winner of the Gun Raffle was member Tony Moragano who graciously donated the gun back to the chapter for future use. Thanks to Ralph and Angela for their generous donations to the cause. There was a dedication to Rory MacConnell with his family in attendance. There was a motion by Jim Ryan to donate \$2000 to Suncoast Charities from our proceeds. Motion 2nd by Brian MacConnell all approved.
- Members are encouraged to recruit potential members. You are encouraged to come up with new ideas to earn funds for our charities.
- We will be celebrating our chapters 30-year anniversary on Saturday 4/26 at 12:00PM. The Anniversary Party will be held at Bert's Black Widow Harley Davidson followed by 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 event with the anniversary party. Free lunch and VIP treatment, live music, store discounts. 11:00 AM Southern meet up spot is the Wawa at 19289 Times Circle Venice 34292. KSU 11:15 AM. The northern meet up spot to be announced. Please RSVP President Gibbons by 4/18. He needs a headcount for the food and seating. Guests are permitted.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: JIM THOMAS N/A

- New chapter shirts – contact Jim Thomas if you are interested in ordering. (newsletter has additional details)

TREASURERS REPORT: JOHN EMRICK N/A

- Motion to accepted February treasurers report: Motion; Brian MacConnell, 2nd; Jim Ryan, all approved
- Financial Position: All bills have been paid and we have a surplus.
- For specific financial details contact our Treasurer.

SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO

- Motion to accept February minutes John Chiusano, 2nd Tracy Dunn, all approved.
- Members asked to sell advertising for the newsletter.

SAFETY OFFICER: - Jim Kelly discussed motorcycle safety

CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK: N/A

SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT:

- SRC Spring Conference in Baton Rouge, LA (see newsletter for details). Rooms still available.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Ralph Smith purchased 10 beach chairs for the trailer as previously approved by the membership.
- Storage locker company has not been determined. \$58 a month has been approved.
- Rory's trailer for sale contact Brian MacConnell.

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

50-50 DRAWING: Amount: \$96 Winner: \$48

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Time: 7:50PM, Motion: John Chiusano, 2nd: Brian MacConnell, all approved

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 1st, 2025

Submitted By: Domenic Ceccanecchio, Secretary BK XVIII





Chapter News

BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

VP Message—Jim Thomas



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.

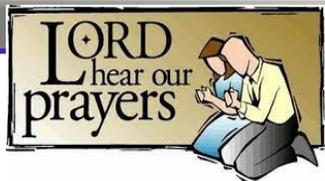
Details:

- ⇒ 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



SICK AND DISTRESSED

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

GEORGE ANDERSON

GERI BUSCEMI

CHRIS SCARDINO

Our Chaplains Page



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

Christianity: Easter and Resurrection

Springtime is Upon Us – Good Time for Family, Friends, Brotherhood and Motorcycle Rides! The month of March brings good opportunities to gather in the worship of Jesus Christ our Savior.



For Christians, spring is closely associated with Easter, the most significant celebration of the faith. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, symbolizing victory over death and the promise of eternal life. The season of Lent, which precedes Easter, is a period of fasting, prayer, and repentance, aligning with the themes of sacrifice and renewal. Holy Week, including Good Friday and Easter Sunday, marks the culmination of these observances. The Easter season reflects themes of hope, redemption, and the renewal of faith, much like the blossoming of flowers after a long winter.

Spring as a Universal Message

Regardless of religious beliefs, spring serves as a universal reminder of hope, growth, and new beginnings. Whether through fasting, prayer, festivals, or reflection, people around the world embrace this season as a time to refresh their spirits and deepen their faith.



As nature blooms, so does the human soul—seeking light, renewal, and the promise of new possibilities. Springtime is not only a change in season but a sacred journey toward transformation and deeper spiritual awareness.

While we all can walk on water, but we can surely enjoy the beautiful beaches in the Suncoast. As the Gulf of America warms up, get out and enjoy the waters and cleanse the soul. Let god's rays of sunshine warm your body, heart and soul!

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



Ride with Pride!

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Justin Hartley - Secretary
Al Fryer - Treasurer

THE SRC REGION INCLUDES:

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SRC WEBSITE— <https://srcknights.org/>
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APRIL 2025



**SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
HOSTED BY**



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Sizes S-3XL

For More Information
<https://BKlouisiana16.org>

Pres. David Whittenberg (225) 385-5313
la16@blueknights.org



Venue At :
Holiday Inn Baton Rouge - South
9990 Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA
\$120/Night w/ Breakfast Buffett
(225)924-7021 (ALL EVENTS)

Additional Lodging
Quality Inn
9970 Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA
\$99/night w/Breakfast Buffett
(225)800-1040

Events:
Nightly Hospitality Room
Daily Rides
Presidents Meeting
Vendor / Chapter Sales
Saturday Evening Banquet
Brotherhood and FUN!

RIDE WITH PRIDE

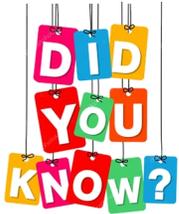
To view the SRC Herald in it's entirety go to <https://srcknights.org/newsletter/>

On The Lighter Side



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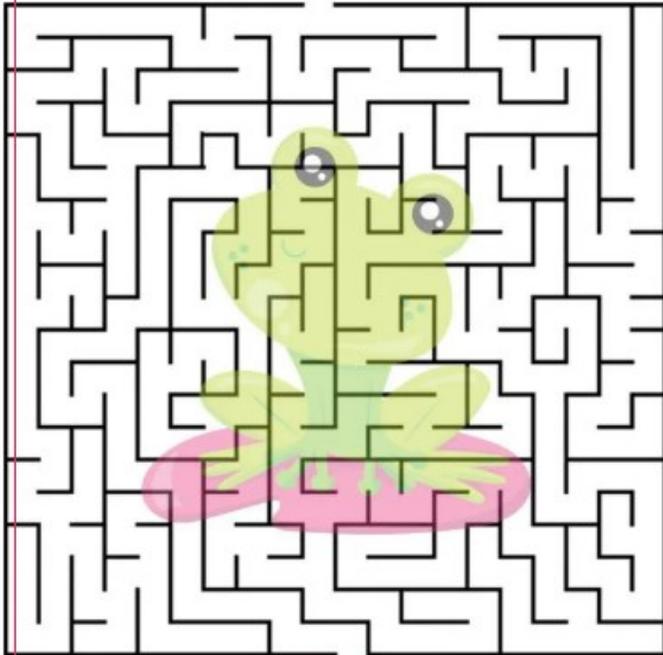
APRIL 2025



The origins of April Fool's Day

Although not all April Fool's experts agree (yes, they exist), some argue April Fool's Day originated in 16th-century France, when Pope Gregory XIII mandated that the new year begin on January 1 instead of the end of March. Those who failed to follow the new calendar were dubbed "April fish." Others claim it originated from ancient spring festivals that included mischief-making.

Complete the Maze! Help the bee reach his duck friend.



Aprilway Oolstay!

april fools' day

word search



APRIL	PRANKS	LAUGHTER	TRICKS
JOKES	SPRING	GAMES	SILLY
FOOL	HOLIDAY	SURPRISE	PLAYFUL

VISIT PISANDPAINT.COM AND SEARCH "APRIL FOOLS DAY" FOR ANSWER KEY

In 1996, fast-food chain Taco Bell announced it had purchased the famed U.S. Liberty Bell, which it claimed it was renaming the "Taco Liberty Bell" and relocating from Philadelphia to its headquarters in California. The company claimed publicity from the hoax increased sales by \$1 million over a 24-hour period.

Google is another chronic hoaxer. It once insisted that it was launching a broadband service using cables that would run through the sewer system. In fact, its reputation for pranking was such that when the company launched its Gmail service on April 1, 2004, few believed them.

On April 1, 2009, YouTube turned some of its videos upside down. A page on "Tips for Viewing the New Layout" suggested users hang their monitors upside down from the ceiling.





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APRIL 2025



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Mission BBQ



118 Reviews

Hours: 11am - 9pm

5231 University Pkwy , Sarasota

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WEBSITE: <https://mission-bbq.com> 