



# BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

## January Ride and Event Schedule

### Happy New Year's Knights

Another year behind us and a fresh start for 2024. I'm looking forward to a happy and healthy new year for our chapter. I want to thank the chapter for having faith and re-electing me as your President. I will continue to work for you and together we can grow this successful chapter and create different opportunities to further our charitable mission and continued activities for fun and social interaction. Please get involved and enjoy your chapter to the fullest.

We accomplished a lot in 2023 with a successful raffle and ride at Thunder By The Bay. We held the Spring SRC in Venice and it was a great time for many of our brother and sister knights from all over the world. We made new members to our chapter family. We also lost four of our brothers in 2023. Thomas Post, Joseph Fanciulli, Rory MacConnell, and Paul Fieber they will always be in our hearts and minds.

Don't be sad they are running Heaven One and riding the clouds, Tom is running the 50/50 I'm sure!!

We have had an awful lot of our members and their families going through some hard times. Many sickness, surgeries, and loss. We have had many on the prayer list and we will continue to keep all of our BK family in continued prayers.

Looking ahead we will start the year with a ride on the First day of 2024. We have more Shootouts with Bobby G ( Chapter Range day.) We are already selling tickets for the Shotgun raffle and hopefully we will sell a lot.

This years Thunder by the bay charity ride has been dedicated in loving memory of Rory MacConnell. It will be an honor to ride this ride this year and be apart of making it happen. This is just the first two months! Look for rides and events in your email, Facebook, Website calendar, and newsletters. "If you don't know it's because you ain't looking." Come on out to lunch or breakfast and share some brother and sisterhood. Get to know who's in your chapter you might be surprised how many friends you have.

Ride with Pride  
*Patrick Gibbons*  
President, FLXVIII



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

### Monday 1/1

**10:30 AM** The first ride of the year. Meet up at the Shrine Parking lot 600 N Beneva rd SRQ. We will be riding to City Island and have lunch at the Salty Dog 1601 B KEN Thompson Pkwy.

### Tuesday 1/2

The January chapter meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be held on February 6th at 7:00PM.

### Friday 1/12

### Lets Go Shooting

"Shootout with Bobby G." 9:00 AM Knight Trail Park 3445 Rustic Rd Nokomis 34275. WE CAN GRAB LUNCH AFTERWARDS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL BGROT-Z2@YAHOO.COM AND IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COPY PRESIDENT GIBBONS AT PJGIBBY1969@COMCAST.NET

### Saturday 1/13

Smoke under the Oaks Rib Fest Labelle

9:15 AM meet up at the Wawa (exit 193 75 S Venice / Jacaranda RD. 19289 Times Cir Venice 34292. Look for a northern meet up spot closer to the event. Watch out for an email with more details.



### Saturday 1/27

Lunch Ride to Cow Pokes in Sebring. 9:30 AM Meet up at the Wawa 14510 ST RD 70E & Lorraine Rd Bradenton



**SOME THINGS DON'T MIX**  
RIDE SOBER





## 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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## 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**  
**CHRISTOPHER SCARDINO**

## OPERATIONS

**JAMES KIRKPATRICK / CHAPLAIN**  
**DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / WEBMASTER**  
**BRIAN MACCONNELL / QUARTERMASTER**  
**VACANT / SAFETY OFFICER**  
**DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / NEWSLETTER**

## In the Chapter Market

Woodworking made to order. Tell me what you want, size, and specific wood (if requested) and I will make it.

Very reasonable prices.

Jim Ryan - 941-313-1363 [jryanretired@aol.com](mailto:jryanretired@aol.com) BK Florida XVIII



2016 Harley Davidson FLSTFBS "Fatboy" All Black, 25645 Miles. Price - \$ 17,000.00

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](mailto:mddre3077@aol.com)



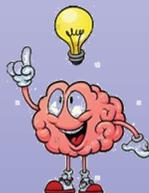
## We need and want your input .....

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

**Patrick Gibbons**  
[pjibby1969@comcast.net](mailto:pjibby1969@comcast.net)

**Jim Thomas**  
[alexandjay1988@gmail.com](mailto:alexandjay1988@gmail.com)

**Dom Ceccanecchio**  
[dcc444@comcast.net](mailto:dcc444@comcast.net)



Wood chipper purchased from Northern Tool & Equipment. Purchased on February 8, 2022 and used for ONE HOUR

Purchased price - \$705.11

Will sell it for \$350.00

Contact John Emrick at 410-991-8161 (okay to leave a message) or [mddre3077@aol.com](mailto:mddre3077@aol.com)



**SEND YOUR SALE ITEMS TO ADD TO OUR MARKET**

Special Event

# Cornhole for the Kids

12/11/2023

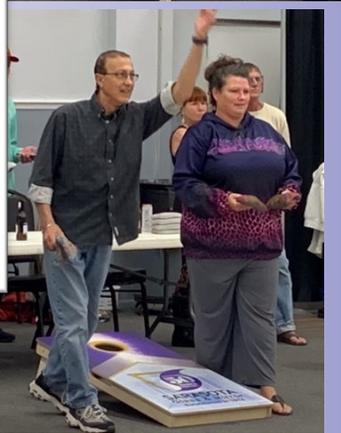
BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

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**CORNHOLE FOR THE KIDS**  
PRESENTED BY THE BLUE KNIGHTS AND HAOLENAUT SPORTS  
Monday Night, December 11th  
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT • 50/50 • RAFFLE PRIZES  
Business Auction Tickets by the Book  
Each Book Contains 25 Tickets  
\$10 PER BOOK OR 3 BOOKS FOR \$25

A man wearing a black vest with patches and a red Santa hat is standing in front of a display. The display features a Budweiser logo and a picture of a horse-drawn carriage. The man is smiling and looking towards the camera.

# Chaplains Message



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First and foremost, as we enter the New Year, we had to say goodbye to some of our celebrated members in 2023, those that made a difference in other people's lives, through their smiles, service as law enforcement officers and the safety they provide to strangers and loved ones.

We are extremely blessed to be in the company of each other, great men and women they have served the needs of others. **Proverbs 16:9; "A man's heart plan his course, But the Lord directs his step"**.

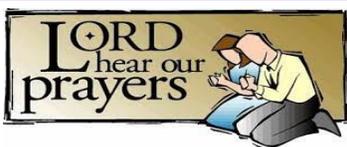
While the earthly family and friends grieve our loss, we should have comfort that the Lord our God, has directed our friends to come home to heaven and complete their service to the Lord as angels of God. Although we are rarely aware of the angel's intervention in our daily lives, I believe that they are all around us.

When we pass between the two worlds, we are escorted by loving angels that provide comfort and reassurance that God loves us. The Old Testament and the New Testament of the Bible mention spirits as angels over 250 times sending us a message that angels are around us. Angels can appear as events, humans, animals to protect, guide, and bring love; there are messengers from the Lord that intervene when we need it the most.

Angels orchestrate coincidences that are not obvious to us, it can be as simple as a therapy dog for a veteran suffering from PTSD, proving the love that was needed to ensure that person's time on earth is still needed. In closing most theologians would agree that angels live amongst us according to God's will, and not our own. While our lost loved ones are living in the glory of heaven, their spirits live on with us.



*Chaplain Jimmy Kirkpatrick*



## SICK AND DISTRESSED

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

GERI BUSCEMI

JEFFREY LONGWELL

ROBIN GRUTERS

# Our Chapter Christmas Party

12/17/2023

BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

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IN MEMORIAM

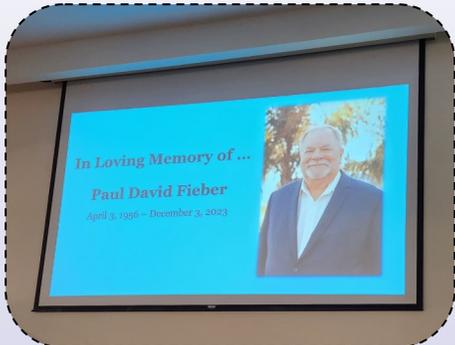


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## Rory MacConnell



## Paul Fieber





*Ride with Pride!*

## Executive Board

Mike Shockley - Chairman  
Randy Hoagland - Vice-Chairman  
Bob Awtrey - International Rep  
Justin Hartley - Secretary  
Al Fryer - Treasurer

## The SRC region includes:

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Alabama        | Bahamas        |
| Florida        | Bermuda        |
| Georgia        | Puerto Rico    |
| Louisiana      | Virgin Islands |
| Mississippi    |                |
| South Carolina |                |

# BLUE KNIGHTS<sup>®</sup> FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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**S.R.C. BAND AID FUND**

**The SRC Band-Aid Fund** exists to assist SRC members with medical treatment expenses after a motorcycle mishap. It is like the International Special Fund, but with fewer restrictions. This fund is not an insurance policy and is not guaranteed. Members are encouraged to carry sufficient medical insurance coverage. The fund is meant to assist with the member's out-of-pocket expenses such as medical bill deductibles, and non-covered expenses incurred at the time of initial treatment.

## General Facts:

- Funds will not be issued to repair the motorcycle or property damage.
- Funds will only be given if available.
- This fund is only for "SRC" Blue Knights members in good standing.
- SRC Blue Knights members are eligible no matter where the incident happens.
- Member must not be operating their motorcycle in an unlawful or reckless manner at the time of the incident.
- There is no requirement that you be attending a Blue Knights-sanctioned ride or advertised event.
- Your chapter does not have to donate to the fund for you to qualify.

## Application:

To apply for funds, the President of the member's chapter must send an email to the SRC Board explaining the details of the incident and the member's expenditure of funds for treatment. The email must request the amount desired. Three (3) of the five (5) SRC Board members must approve before funds will be dispersed.

## Amount:

The fund will provide up to \$500 dollars an incident requiring outpatient care. The fund will provide up to \$1000 dollars for an incident that results in an overnight or longer hospital stay. Only one payout will be issued to a member for a specific incident. Funds will be paid to the member by a check issued from the SRC Treasurer.

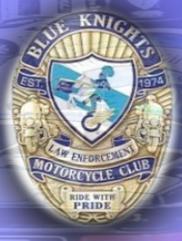
If the impacted member is eligible for funds from the Blue Knights Board of Governors Special Fund, then the member must apply for those funds before requesting Band-Aid Fund assistance. If the member is allotted payment from the Special Fund, then funds from the SRC Band-Aid Fund will not be paid out.

## Funding:

Starting Jan 1st, 2020, the SRC will begin collecting for the SRC Band-Aid Fund. Contributions to the fund are voluntary. The fund's sustainability will be possible due to the generosity of Blue Knight members. Chapters and/or individual members may make donations of any size any time during the year.

Band-Aid Fund donations and proceeds from fundraisers designed to support the fund (i.e. poker runs or raffles) will be sent directly to the SRC Treasurer. The SRC Treasurer will document the amounts of donations and payouts on a separate line on the SRC financial report.

Additional Information and the most current guidelines are located in the SRC Documents Section on this website.



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## JANUARY ZODIAC SIGNS



### Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Capricorns are overachievers, persistent, practical, and sensitive. They're known for their hardworking habits, and they're overachievers who make success look effortless — even though they put a lot of time and care into their careers and relationships.



### Aquarius (January 20 to February 18)

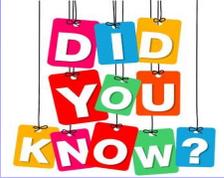
Aquarians are clever, analytical, technical, truthful, assertive, confident, progressive and innovative. They like to solve problems, improve what's already working well, and push boundaries. They are activists, campaigners and progressors of the causes they think will make a difference to the world.





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Many have mounted flags on their motorcycles and therefore should follow proper etiquette for the US Flag. On motorcycles, the U.S. flag must be mounted at the center on the rear of the bike or to the right from the rider's perspective when driving forward, which is referred to as the "marching right." When flown adjacent to a state flag or another type of flag, the American flag should take the marching right position. The blue line flag, although disguised within the boundaries of the US Flag, it doesn't bear the colors described within the U.S. code. However, it's symbolism perches on the doorstep of old glory so in the absence of the U.S. Flag, it bears the honor of being on the right of any other flags.

Compliments of



Rodney Stearns



## Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club

### 50th Anniversary

**Date:** July 21st – 26th, 2024

**Location:** Sugarloaf Mountain Hotel & Conference Center  
5092 Access Road  
Carrabassett Valley, Maine 04947

**Phone:** 1-800-843-5623

**HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS ARE FULL.** Condos are available. Go to the Sugarloaf web page and go to the lodging link; you can then scroll through the various condo photos and descriptions and choose what type you would like with the bed configuration you want. You will then need to call and they will take your information to make your reservation. Tell them what you want... If they do not have one available right away, they will take your info (type of condo, etc.) and put you on a wait list and call you when one is added to their inventory.

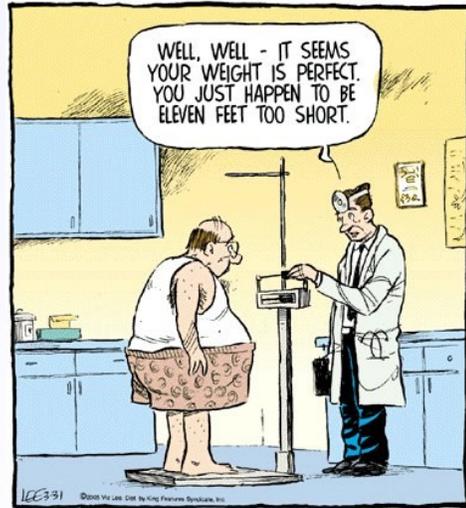
**RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION IS ALL MEMBERS JOB.... ALWAYS WEAR YOUR COLORS AND PROMOTE OUR ORGANIZATION**

You drink. You ride.  
You crash. You die.  
Your wife's new "friend"  
gets your bike.  
Bummer.



# On the LIGHTER SIDE

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024





# December Chapter Meeting Highlights

BLUE KNIGHTS OF LEMO

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance: led by President Gibbons

Invocation: by Jim Kirkpatrick

Welcoming Remarks: by President Gibbons. Eli Serrapica was presented his membership package.

### PRESIDENTS REPORT: PATRICK GIBBONS

- Moment of Silence for Rory MacConnell and Paul Fieber who both transferred to Heaven 1 on 12/3/2023 We discussed the service arrangements for them. Wreaths Across America ride has been cancelled.
- Chapter Election. All current officers have run for re-election and are unopposed. All current officers to remain in office for two, two year terms (2024/2025):
  - President - Patrick Gibbons
  - Vice President - James Thomas
  - Secretary - Domenic Ceccanecchio
  - Treasurer - John Emrick
  - Sergeant at Arms - James Ryan

\* Past President, Sid Jones will fill the vacant board position- created with the passing of Rory MacConnell.

- Shotgun raffle for Thunder by the Bay. Contact President Gibbons for tickets. The tickets come in books of 5. Individual tickets are \$15. A book of 5 cost \$40. This year we have 750 tickets to sell and we have an extra month to sell them. Please help us by selling or buying a ticket or book. The ride this year will be dedicated to Rory MacConnell.
- Chapter dues \$40! Please, if you haven't paid yet mail them in or bring them to John Emrick or President Gibbons at one of our functions. To date 36 members have paid and are in good standing.
- Chapter Christmas Party at the Venicia Hotel in Venice, FL on December 17<sup>th</sup>. 4:00 PM cocktail hour 5:00PM dinner buffet. Party until 9:00PM. Tickets are \$30 per person. Please pay before the party. Family and friend's welcome.
- Kid's Christmas Charity: Shopping 12/12 at Lakewood Ranch Walmart on Route 70 (\$1,000) to spend. Thursday 12/14 we will be delivering the Christmas gifts to the Manatee County Sheriff's Office. Meeting location is the Speedway gas station 8604 SR 70 Bradenton 34202 9:30AM
- Ride Safety is emphasized. You are responsible for yourself and those around you.
- Cornhole for the Kids, is Monday December 11<sup>th</sup>. Please come early to help set up 6:00PM. Any questions reach out to Jim Ryan or President Gibbons.

### VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: JAMES THOMAS

Membership Update: 53 and 1 pending.

### TREASURERS REPORT: JOHN EMRICK

- Motion to accept November Treasurers Report: Motion: Brian MacConnell, 2nd: Tim VanSchultz, Unanimous Approval
- Financial Position: End of year report is being created and will be presented at the February meeting.
- Approached banks re: club debit/credit cards and are not feasible. Other options being explored.

### SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO

Motion to accept November Minutes: Motion: John Chiusano, b2nd: Jim Thomas, Unanimous Approval

- REMINDER: Visit our website BLUEKNIGHTSFLXVIII.COM password is password 1234680.
- The NOVEMBER newsletter and December ride schedule were posted on the website
- We are looking for new, up-to-date content for the website and Newsletter. Email me (Domenic) OR Patrick Gibbons your letters, feedback, items for sale, special events etc. for inclusion in the Newsletter (all content will be vetted to meet BLUE KNIGHT Standards). The drop-dead date for submissions is the 21st of each month.
- We can generate revenue for the Chapter with minimal work by simply selling sponsorships. Contact anyone on the Executive Board if you find a potential sponsor.

SAFETY OFFICER: Need volunteer to fill position.

CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK: Keep sick and distressed in your thoughts and prayers

SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary approaching. More to follow.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- There was a motion by Brian MacConnell to move \$500 from the children Christmas charity fund to assist veterans in Port Charlotte. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jim Thomas, unanimously approved.
- "Shoot with Bobby" will be held on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM at the Knight Trail Park Pistol and Rifle Range, 3445 Rustic Road, Nokomis, FL 34275

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

Gerri Buscemi Jeffrey Longwell Robin Gruters

50-50 DRAWING: Amount: \$110 Winner: Brian Bender (\$55)

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Time: 8:00PM, Motion: John Chiusano, 2nd: Brian MacConnell, Unanimous Approval

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 2024**





# Support our Sponsors

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### Beverly Hills Dog Premier Doggy Daycare



For tiny, small and medium sized dogs  
2030 Bispham Road Sarasota 34231

941-822-0888

<http://www.beverlyhillsdog.net>

CONCIERGE OVERNIGHT CARE AVAILABLE

ARE YOU LIVING VOGUE

## LIVING VOGUE

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REALTOR - Charles Ratliff

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732-735-0738

[charles@livingvogue.com](mailto:charles@livingvogue.com)



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Greg and Cynthia Brock  
Broker/Owners

### Mission BBQ



118 Reviews

Hours: 11am - 9pm

5231 University Pkwy, Sarasota

(941) 841-9279



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

### Rodeo Drive Pet Spa

941-210-3495

Kristen

Owner / Groomer

2030 Bispham Road

Unit 4

Sarasota FL 34231

