



# BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Greetings Brother and Sister Knights,

As we move into February and the height of our SWFL riding season we are preparing for one of our favorite events Thunder By The Bay! This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the event with big name bands and our Sunday United We Ride Charity Ride. This year .38 Special is the headline band and coincidentally our chapter is raffling off a Taurus.38 Special revolver with a custom presentation box.

This event always brings visiting Blue Knights from all over to our booth and hospitality trailer. Keeping the Brother and sisterhood strong. We usually find a few new potential members during the weekend. We raise most of our charity funds during this weekend. We get to work with our local motorcycle community promoting the Blue Knights. Thunder By The Bay is a very important partnership that continues to help our chapter as we help the TBB charity.

I would also like to say how proud I was of Chapter FL XVIII for coming out to take our brother Tom Post on his last ride and his first ride in Heaven One. It's sad days like this that solidify my belief that the Blue Knights International LEMC is the best LEMC in the world. The brotherhood and sisterhood is strong.

Sincerely,  
Patrick

*Ride with Pride*  
*Patrick Gibbons*  
President, FLXVIII



## February Ride and Event Schedule

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



### 2/2 Thursday 11:00AM

Lunch at Kelly's Roast Beef 5407 University Pkwy SRQ. ( the old sweet tomatoes) We will take a ride after lunch. We need to take the Thunder By the Bay ride route. We have to time the run and make sure it will be safe and fun.

### 2/7 Tuesday 5:30PM

Dinner at the Hot Sands Tiki Bar ( Sahib Shriners) 600N Beneva RD Sarasota.

### 2/7 Tuesday 7:00 PM

Monthly General Membership Meeting upstairs at the Sahib Shriners 600N Beneva RD Sarasota.

### 2/11 Saturday 9:00 AM

Breakfast at Der Dutchman restaurant 3713 Bahia Vista St Sarasota. Let's take a ride after breakfast.



### Thunder by the Bay 2/16 thru 2/19

2/16 Thursday (time TBD) tent and booth set up at the Fairgrounds.  
2/17 Friday 4:00 PM -10:00 PM Thunder By The Bay  
2/18 Saturday 10:00 AM – 10:00PM Thunder By The Bay  
2/19 Sunday 9:30 AM Adrenaline HD TBB Freedom Ride  
2/19 Sunday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

### 2/26 Sunday 10:00 AM

Sunday Funday Ride Meet up at the FOP Lodge #3 3600 Circus Blvd Sarasota. We will take a ride and find lunch. Come with some ideas the best one wins the ride destination.



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## ZODIAC SIGNS FEBRUARY

### Aquarius (Water Bearer): January 20–February 18



Innovative, progressive, and shamelessly revolutionary, Aquarius is represented by the water bearer, the mystical healer who bestows water, or life, upon the land. Accordingly, Aquarius is the most humanitarian astrological sign. At the end of the day, Aquarius is dedicated to making the world a better place.

### Pisces (Fish): February 19–March 20



Pisces has absorbed every lesson — the joys and the pain, the hopes and the fears — learned by all of the other signs. It's symbolized by two fish swimming in opposite directions, representing the constant division of Pisces' attention between fantasy and reality.



### ***SICK AND DISTRESSED***

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

**RORY MACCONNELL IS RECEIVING AND DOING WELL FROM HIS RADIATION TREATMENTS AND WILL BE RECEIVING LONG TERM CARE!**

**CECE JUDGE CONTINUES TO RECEIVE MEDICAL CARE.**

**PAUL FIEBER IS BEING TREATED AT HOME AND AT THE HOSPITAL.**



### **Fellow Knights**

- **The chapters annual membership dues have been submitted to the International.**
- **SRC Registrations are coming in daily and all funds have been deposited into our account**
- **We have streamlined our banking accounts with PNC as to be compliant with current regulations and procedures**
- **All of our accounts are up to date and balanced, the Chapter finances are in the black**

### **Treasurers Report**

John Emerick  
Chapter Treasurer



### ***Due Diligence ...***

A by-laws committee has been formed to ensure that we are in compliance with Blue Knight International standards.

The committee consists of John Emrick, Dom Ceccanecchio, Jimmy Kirkpatrick, Jim Thomas and Patrick Gibbons. Results of the committees findings will be presented to the membership for approval.



Proud Host of the  
**Spring 2023 Southern Regional Conference**  
 Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

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Host Hotel	Room Fees and Info	Registration
<b>HOTEL VENEZIA</b> Ramada by Wyndham 425 US-431 Bypass Venice, Florida, 34285 Phone: 941-308-7700 <b>AMMENITIES</b> *On-Site Restaurant *Outdoor Pool and Bar *Large Spa Jacuzzi *Fire pit Lounge *Outdoor Fireplace *Fitness Room *Wireless Internet	<b>\$109 per room +tax</b> Call Directly: Use Booking Code: "BK SRC" 147 rooms available - pet-friendly rooms are available. 3 Night Stay minimum to include the \$10 per couple breakfast special. 2 breakfasts per day/room for \$10 (4/\$20 must be 4 in same room) **must call hotel to add to RESV** There are 3 Campgrounds in the area	<b>\$70 per person</b> <b>\$80 per person</b> after March 1, 2023 <b>REGISTRATION LINK:</b> <a href="http://srcknights.org">srcknights.org</a> 

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLORIDA CHAPTER XVIII

Calls all Ye BLUE KNIGHTS to Beautiful Venice Florida!!!



### Extras being planned -- Sunset Cruises and Charter Fishing



**Daily:** Draft Beer Truck, wine, soda, snacks, rides and Chapter Sales Room  
**Nightly:** Adult games, Texas Hold 'em Tournaments, Raffles and 50/50  
**Thur-Sat Evenings:** President's Hospitality Lounge will be open  
**Friday:** Late Lunch, off-site Grill-out with burgers, dogs and brats  
**Friday Night:** Blues Pig Band (cops) w/Blues Brothers Show in the banquet room  
**Saturday Night:** Dinner Banquet with Awards & Auction winners

For More Information contact:

Patrick Bibbons at [pjgibby1969@comcast.net](mailto:pjgibby1969@comcast.net) or Rory MacConnell at [mac71037@verizon.net](mailto:mac71037@verizon.net)

**WE ARE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR SOME OF THE COMMITTEES LISTED BELOW.**

**PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE BELOW CHAIRPERSONS:**

*The conference chairmen are Rory Mac Connell and President Patrick Gibbons.*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chairman --- John Emrick Treasurer ([mddre3077@aol.com](mailto:mddre3077@aol.com))**

**BANQUET / BBQ COMMITTEE: Chairman Tom Yacca ([rotocycle44@yahoo.com](mailto:rotocycle44@yahoo.com))**

**OPERATIONS: Paul Fieber ([acegolf3@msn.com](mailto:acegolf3@msn.com))**

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: Chairman -- Jim Thomas ([jthomas@berlinwall.us](mailto:jthomas@berlinwall.us))**

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE – GAME NIGHT THURSDAY: Chairmen Rory Mac Connell ([mac71037@verizon.net](mailto:mac71037@verizon.net))**

**CAPPUCCINO / ESPRESSO TRAILER EVENINGS - Jack Ovadia ([jbvtx1300@gmail.com](mailto:jbvtx1300@gmail.com))**

**THEME DECORATIONS BANQUET / SOCIAL AREAS: Chairwomen Lydia Grotz ([bgrotz2@yahoo.com](mailto:bgrotz2@yahoo.com))**

**RIDE COMMITTEE: Chairman Vinny Spadaro ([vinnie189@verizon.net](mailto:vinnie189@verizon.net))**

**AUCTION / CHAPTER SALES: Chairman Tim Van Shultz / Jim Ryan ([jryanretired@aol.com](mailto:jryanretired@aol.com))**



# BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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## Chaplains Message

Greeting Fellow Blue Knights,

As we continue our journey into 2023, let's be reminded that we have several brothers and sisters with health issues facing them. Let's keep our Blue Knights family members in your hearts and prayers this coming year. The Bible teaches us several healing prayers, in Jeremiah 17:14 we hear the cry "heal me Lord, and I will be healed...", and in Jeremiah 30:17 we hear God say, "I will restore your health, I will heal your wounds."

James 5:13 tells us "a prayer offered in faith makes a sick person well." God cares about our whole being - body, soul, spirit. Whether we are in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual healing - He knows and He cares. Let us pray in God's will that complete healing is ours. Use these prayers for healing as you seek God's strength and comfort for our fellow Blue Knights.

Please also keep the family members of those battling illness in your prayers and thoughts, they are also struggling and need our support. In the name of Jesus, "we ask that God Bless each and every one to protect us from illness, hurt and sadness.

Chaplain Jimmy



James Kirkpatrick, Chaplain





# January Chapter Meeting Highlights

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

**Location:** Sahib Shrine

**Meeting Call to Order:** [by President Gibbons @ 7:17PM](#)

In attendance: Executive officers: 4 Officers: 4 Members: 20 Guests: 12

**Pledge of Allegiance:** led by President Gibbons @ 7:17PM

**Invocation:** Susan Alec @7:18pm

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT: PATRICK GIBBONS**

- **500 Thunder by the Bay (Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>)** raffle tickets are being distributed for sale. Tickets are \$10 each with 5 for \$30. Contact President Gibbons to receive the tickets for personal purchase or to sell. We still need volunteers. Members will be receiving a volunteer sign-up sheet by email from President Gibbons. Sunday ride set up at Adrenaline HD, the ride, staff fairgrounds Booth AM and afternoon, Sunday Cleanup and pack up
- SRC Auction items. See if you can find some donors or if you would like to donate goods yourself. Jim Ryan has created key-chains and other items for sale.
- We are looking for someone to fill the Safety Officer position. Anyone interested please contact President Gibbons.
- We are creating various committees and need members to step-up so we can be better prepared for the events that we have through the year.

Thunder By the Bay 2024	Chapter Christmas Party
Children's Christmas Charity (Christmas gifts)	Ride and Events Committee
Health and Wellness	Wreaths Across America
Road Captain Training Program	

### **VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: JAMES THOMAS**

The rehab of the FOP Lodge (3600 Circus Blvd) is currently delayed. VP Thomas will continue to follow developments and inspection of the facility. Meetings will continue at the Sahib Shrine.

Special order hats: the white hats are on backorder.

### **TREASURERS REPORT: JOHN EMRICK**

Motion to accept December Treasurers Report: Motion: [Rory MacConnell](#), 2nd: Jim Thomas, [Unanimous Approval](#)

All of our accounts are up to date and balanced, the Chapter finances are in the black

Membership Dues have been received for 43 members to date.

A proposal was submitted to reform the chapter accounting process and approved by the Board of Directors.

### **SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECCIO**

Motion to accept December Minutes: Motion: Rory MacConnell, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jim Thomas, Unanimous Approval

Reminder that the updated Chapter Roster is available on our website BLUEKNIGHTSFLXVIII.COM in the members only section. The password is password 1234680.

The CHAPTER NEWSLETTER: We are always looking for new, up-to-date content. 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.

Reminder: We have the opportunity, through our Newsletter, to generate revenue for the Chapter with minimal work by simply selling ads. Contact anyone on the Executive Board if you find a potential sponsor.

A survey is being developed and will be sent to all members so that we can provide better service and information to everyone.

### **SAFETY OFFICER: JAMES KIRKPATRICK**

President Gibbons and VP Thomas emphasized the importance of bike maintenance and safety inspections before riding.

### **SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT:**

International Convention, Dates: July 16 - July 21, 2023, Harrisburg, PA (rooms are sold out)

Positions are open in the upcoming SRC elections.

Ballots for International elections in June to be emailed to membership.

136 rooms out of 146 have been booked for the 2023 spring Conference in Venice.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Jim Ryan offered his golf cart for use during the Spring conference. Arrangements to be discussed to have it trailered here and to have hospitality signage made up for it.

### **SICK AND DISTRESSED:**

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

Rory MacConnell, CeCe Judge, Paul Fieber

**50-50 DRAWING:** Amount: \$86 Winner: \$43 - Chuck Diez (Ft. Myers) donated the money back

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 2023**



### 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

## Board of Directors

Vincent Spadaro  
Christopher Scardino  
Rory MacConnell / Past President  
James Ryan / Sergeant at Arms

## Operations

Domenic Ceccanecchio / Webmaster  
Timothy Van Schultz / Quartermaster  
James Kirkpatrick / Safety Officer

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

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

Patrick Gibbons  
Jim Thomas  
Dom Ceccanecchio

[pjgibby1969@comcast.net](mailto:pjgibby1969@comcast.net)  
[jthomas@berlinwall.us](mailto:jthomas@berlinwall.us)  
[dcc444@comcast.net](mailto:dcc444@comcast.net)



## Thomas William Post

February 26, 1942 - January 8, 2023







## International Vice President Rory MacConnell

Blue Knights<sup>®</sup> International  
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.

International Convention 2023

Dates: July 16 - July 21, 2023

Chapter: PA V - Harrisburg, PA

Convention Information: The web site for the 2023 event has been activated for Blue Knights around the world.

Visit the web site at [www.BKI2023International.com](http://www.BKI2023International.com)

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION IS ALL MEMBERS

JOB.... ALWAYS WEAR YOU COLORS AND PROMOTE OUR ORGANIZATION

WE STILL HAVE SOME OPENINGS FOR HELP AT THE SPRING SRC. CONTACT RORY FOR DETAILS

### FROM THE WEB

[WWW.BLUEKNIGHTSFLXVIII.COM](http://WWW.BLUEKNIGHTSFLXVIII.COM)

*Dom Ceccanecchio, Webmaster*

## INTERNET BASICS: Web Browsers

Web Browsers are software that are used to access the Web. There are many different web browsers, but some of the most common ones include Google Chrome, Safari, Mozilla Firefox. and Opera but there are many others browsers available. On the Web, when you navigate through pages of information, this is commonly known as web browsing or web surfing.

### URLS AND THE ADDRESS BAR

Each website has a unique address, called a **URL** (short for Uniform Resource Locator). It's like a street address that tells your browser where to go on the Internet. When you type a URL into the browser's address bar and press Enter on your keyboard, the browser will load the page associated with that URL.

### LINKS

Whenever you see a word or phrase on a website that's blue or underlined in blue, it's probably a hyperlink, or link for short. You might already know how links work, even if you've never thought about them much before. For example, try clicking the link [www.blueknightsflxviii.com](http://www.blueknightsflxviii.com). Links are used to navigate the Web. When you click a link, it will usually take you to a different webpage. You may also notice that your cursor changes into a hand icon whenever you hover over a link.

### BOOKMARKS AND HISTORY

If you find a website you want to view later, it can be hard to memorize the exact web address. **Bookmarks**, also known as favorites, are a great way to save and organize specific websites so you can revisit them again and again. Simply locate and select the Star icon to bookmark the current website.

### SAVING IMAGES

Sometimes you may want to save an image from a website to your computer. To do this, right-click the image and select Save image as (or Save picture as).

\*It is important to note that all web browsers are not the same. Like different televisions that all display the same channels, all web browsers take you to the same Internet, but can be designed differently. The "Help" feature on many web browsers may not be found in the same place, but there is very often a "Help" menu option, or a "Help" button at the top of the browser window.



## 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.

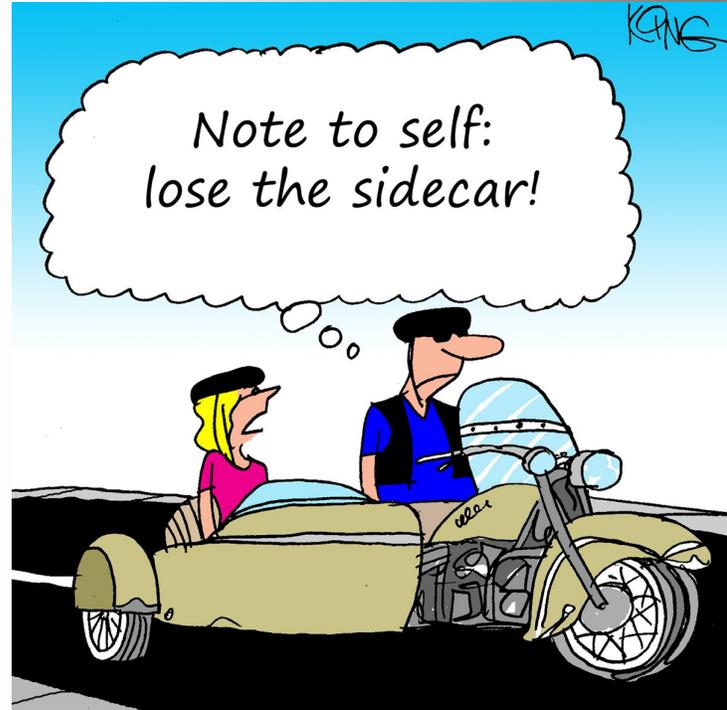
Jim Ryan - 941-313-1363

[jryanretired@aol.com](mailto:jryanretired@aol.com) BK Florida XVIII



**FOR SALE:** SunHeater Solar Pool Heating System. Two 2'x10' solar panels, diverter valve, instructions and complete mounting kit to mount panels on roof, ground or fence. Works on either above ground or inground pools. 2 years old. Sells for \$400+ new for just the panels, asking \$300 or B/O for everything. Call Don 585-739-3465. Leave message for call back or email: [dapnyiv@yahoo.com](mailto:dapnyiv@yahoo.com)

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



"You were going too slow, then you were going too fast. You hit every pothole and you're making the turns too wide. And another thing..."

## Easy Riddles

- Q: What 5-letter word typed in all capital letters can be read the same upside down?
- Q: The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
- Q: David's father has three sons: Snap, Crackle, and \_\_\_\_\_?
- Q: What is more useful when it is broken?
- Q: I am easy to lift, but hard to throw. What am I?
- Q: Where do you take a sick boat?
- Q: Which fish costs the most?
- Q: What goes up, but never comes down?
- Q: A cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed for three nights and rode out on Friday.  
How is this possible?
- Q: What has a neck but no head?





## Members Corner . . .

### Blue Knights are more than just family.....Rodney Stearns

Without the true understanding and value of camaraderie, the Blue Knights are truly a replacement for what may have been lost with retirement from an officer's blue family. Many in this group are not from here but swarm the area from across the United States. In August 2022, the Public Safety Officer Support Act was signed that recognized that suicide by a Law Enforcement officer could be a line of duty death based on post-traumatic stress by a Law Enforcement officer. In acknowledgement, that merely confirms that suicide is the leading death of these criminal justice warriors that succumb to their internal battles. These common moments of sadness are perhaps emblematic of a larger problem that many agencies need to chisel out to defeat. We fail to understand the true depth of internal strife caused from the traumatic incidents that have created a memory gridlock in the officer's mind. Law Enforcement officers struggle with visions of their past, judgments derived from consistent prevarication on the street, and a seemingly antithetical way they feel about their disapproval of societies wrong doers. It is difficult enough for many to understand the sheepdogs effortless approach to danger, their ability to thrive in a crisis, to purposely run toward danger, and accept high-risk situations as a way of life. So, it would be equally confusing for those same scholars to be similarly perplexed while trying to comprehend the difficulties retirement may impose on these adrenaline warriors. Why is this not easy? Because these rare breed guardians of society are doing what they love regardless of the mental and physical consequences. They are in the heart of perilous situations with a complete, well, perhaps perceived, understanding of the possible outcome, yet often are inspired to defend daily high-risk situations. They are action-based people that carry elevated levels of confidence which is a required commodity to survive in bad situations. They have access to copious amounts of resources, equipment, and valuable data as well as the authority to carry out their suspicions and contacts with less than desirable suspects. All of which is eliminated upon retirement. They are peacekeepers that build a sixth sense that drive them to respond to possibilities that seemingly override probabilities, a need to be brave, prepared, hypervigilant, and situationally aware without a shut off switch when duty ends, or retirement begins.

We continue to find the need for mental health workers in the law enforcement workplace, to help with terrible situations and guide officers safely back to work following traumatic incidents. In contrast we still have agencies that merely wash their hands of a potential mental health crisis by merely assuming the officers are alright simply because an unqualified person asked them. These people have given a better portion of their life serving their communities -- perhaps we owe them more than a gold watch and a plaque as we send them out to the pretentious greener pasture. It seems the most important discussions connected to retirement planning is the financial aspect and we bypass anything regarding the mental complications that may exist. An agency should not sidestep the psychosocial section of retiring, especially for a sheepdog that has spent his life protecting, responding, and managing difficult situations. We are unplugging them from who they are, everything they have become and developed into, and assuming they will be perfectly fine in the new transformation. This is where the comforting Blue Knights, more suitably blue angels, may have taken a role where others have failed. It brings together two important subsections of society...bikers and cops. The camaraderie is sometimes more than just people getting together...we may have actually saved a life. In their departure, many agencies assume they do not want to be disturbed, contacted, and asked a question. Truthfully, these well trained, vastly experienced officers would likely welcome a call seeking advice or asking them about retirement. The retired officer starts to feel a disconnect in a way they had not expected, and a disenchantment develops toward the agency. We, in the Blue Knights, have found a way to fix that by building a new family of blue and bikers.



**RODNEY STEARNS** is a military veteran, a retired police lieutenant, with a BS in Criminal Justice, and a MS in family studies with an emphasis in mental health. He spent most of his career in the tactical arena as a Commander and currently works with Homeland Security funding to provide a monetary resource for SWAT, DIVE, and Bomb teams in Wisconsin.



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