



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year's Knights,

As we usher in 2025 I look forward to celebrating our chapters thirtieth anniversary. Thirty years of riding with pride on the Sun Coast. Thirty years of charity and helping our community. Thirty years of brother and sisterhood.

The winter riding weather has been beautiful. Be on the lookout for a few long rides this month. So knock off the dust and air up the tires and come out for a ride.

Our gun raffle is going well if you need any tickets to sell or purchase please let me know. The February drawing at the Thunder By The Bay will be here quicker than you think. Please help us make our goal so we can keep helping our charities.

Ride with Pride
Patrick Gibbons
President, FLXVIII



January Ride and Event Schedule

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

Saturday 1/4 — 9:30 AM

First Ride of the year!
Don Jose Mex Restaurant
4731 Lakeview Dr Sebring 33870
Meet up at the WAWA 14510 SR-70E
and Lorraine
KSU 9:45 AM

Tuesday 1/7 — 5:30 PM

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

Tuesday 1/7 — 7:00 PM

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

Sunday 1/12 — 9:00 AM

Breakfast at Skillets
8635 S Tamiami Trail SRQ.
Ride After Breakfast

Saturday 1/18 — 9:30 AM

Smoke Under The Oaks Rib Fest LaBelle.
WAWA 19289 Times Circle
Jacaranda, Venice
President Gibbons will announce if and where we have a Northern meeting spot



*Congratulations
to Brother Knight
John Emrick
and his beautiful bride
Claire Meeler
on their recent wedding*



*"May God bless you both
with a lifetime
of shared love and joy!"*



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
SECRETARYDOMENIC CECCANECCHIO
SERGEANT AT ARMS JAMES RYAN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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TRACY DUNN
CHRISTOPHER SCARDINO

OPERATIONS

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

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



2006 Yamaha Road Star Midnight 170000.
25000 miles. Just \$4000.00.
Contact Jim Ryan



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



George Anderson has a set of
custom ladies brown half leath-
er chaps for sale.

He paid \$160 from a craftsman
in Colorado! Shortly after pur-
chasing them his wife decided
to stop riding, so these are in
near new condition

Please let George know if you
are interested.

gande1942@gmail.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”

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In the Chapter Market

Friend of John Churismo wants to sell his 2021 HD Road Glide. It has low mileage and it is in excellent condition, I know that to be a fact. It is a Black Beauty. He’s asking \$24,500. Could you please sound out a blast to all that you can. Any interested party

2021 Harley Davidson Road Glide Limited 15,165 miles. Excellent condition!

- Stage 1 kit
- CB RADIO (2 sets of antennas)
- Dual turn signal/ driving lights
- Full bike cover
- Loud horn kit
- Under-seat fan kit
- Security system
- Two windshields
- Two flag kits
- High-intensity brake light
- Road pegs
- Chrome front forks
- Harley Hammock seat (+ original)
- lowered shocks (+ originals)



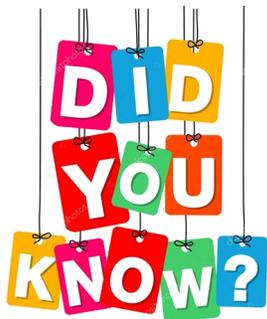
The bike has almost new tires. Just completed 15,000 mi service.

Original price over \$30,000.

The bike is in new condition!

You can contact him directly. Lee Pinkard ... pinkardl@verizon.net

SEND YOUR SALE ITEMS TO ADD TO OUR MARKET



Under the new law for 2025 is a layer of protection for first responders. Anyone told by a first responder not to approach must maintain a 25-foot distance from them.

The law requires people not to:

- **impede or interfere the first responder’s ability to perform such duty**
- **threaten the first responder with physical harm**
- **harass the first responder**

RODNEY STEARNS





Santas Comming to Town



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Child Protection Investigations Division





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Please be advised that the **“Thunder by the Bay” raffle tickets** have arrived. President Gibbons will distribute them at the December 3rd monthly chapter meeting. If you can't make the meeting let him know and he will arrange to get the tickets to you. 1000 tickets were ordered!

The local children, Veterans, and Law Enforcement organizations are counting on you to sell all 1000 tickets so they can keep on receiving the support we provide. If you don't like selling tickets how about buying some??

The prices for the tickets are \$10 dollars per ticket and a book of 5 is \$30, THAT'S TWO FREE TICKETS !!!!

We are raffling off a Smith & Wesson M&P 9mm Shield Plus. A Range Bundle (Ammo can with shooters glasses and ear muffs) a \$40 value is included.

Patrick

Blue Knights FL XVIII
Smith & Wesson M&P 9mm Shield Plus
Handgun Raffle With Range Bundle
Proceeds benefit local children, LEO, and Veterans charities
Winner must pass FL firearms background check
Not tax deductible
1000 tickets to be Sold. \$10 for 1 ticket \$30 for a book of 5 tickets
Drawing held on 2/16/2025
Winner not need to be present

Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____

No. 001



Possible Job Opportunity

The School District of Manatee County - School Guardian Program will probably expand 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.

If the expansion is approved by the School Board, we can expect to see the positions posted and interviews some time around April. The program participants in the Florida (FRS) Retirement System, where you are vested after 8 years of service.

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





Chapter News

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Director Elections

We have two Directors positions due for re-election. Three nominations were submitted but one was withdrawn. The remaining candidates Tracy Dunn and Bobby Grotz will be certified by President Gibbons at the Monthly Chapter Meeting on Tuesday January 7th, 2025. Come out and congratulate them.



December Chapter Meeting



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

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



CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY



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Chapter Events

BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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VP Message—Jim Thomas



Hello brothers and sisters,

I hope Christmas has been kind to all of you. I'm writing this as New Year's will soon be upon us. If you're a believer in New Year's resolutions then good luck.

We've been having a lot of rides that are not scheduled and they've been nice. Kudos to Michael Klein who has been taking a lead on most of them because he loves to ride and he loves to recruit people to ride with him. So if you're interested in spontaneous rides, please let Michael know your phone number so he can add you to the notification list.

Once again, remember, if there's anybody you run into who has a career in any format with the powers of arrest or retired from one, please give them my information. I would love to recruit some more people into the chapter. Kind of feel them out if you're gonna do that to see if they're actually the kind that would participate. We need some active hands. I would love to be part of more of it if I weren't working most of the time. If there's anything you would like to do in the next coming year, please feel free to let Patrick or myself know so we can look at adding it to the calendar. Whether that's a restaurant or a specific ride, you would like to do to a location or simply go by sites that you'd like to see, please let us know. I hope your Christmas went well and I hope your New Year's is exciting and safe. Keep the rubber side down. Take care and we'll see you at the next meeting.

Be well, and keep the handlebars up.

Lets Go Shooting



WITH BOBBY G

“Shootout with Bobby G.” 9:00 AM , Friday January 10th at the Knight Trail Park 3445 Rustic Rd Nokomis 34275. WE CAN GRAB LUNCH AFTERWARDS.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL BGROTZ2@YAHOO.COM AND IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COPY PRESIDENT GIBBONS AT PJGIB-BY1969@COMCAST.NET





December Chapter Meeting Highlights

BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

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Meeting Call to Order: by [President Gibbons](#) @ 7:03p

In attendance: Executive officers: 4 Officers: 2 Members: 15 Guests: 3

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

Invocation: by John Chuisano

Welcoming Remarks: by President Gibbons.

MEETING DECORUM

Please silence all phones and be courteous of the members around you. Talking during the meetings has been a problem for some members who cannot hear the actual meeting.

If you want to speak raise your hand. If I don't see you (due to being blocked) please stand with your hand raised. If I totally miss you, verbally get my attention. Stay on the topic being discussed. If you have something new you want to share with the room or bring up for discussion, save it for new business. If you want to talk about something from meetings past, save it for old/unfinished business.

Please limit yourself to three minutes. If you need more time please ask for an extension. Please do not interrupt the speaker. Raise your hand for your time for rebuttal or input on the matter being discussed.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: PATRICK GIBBONS

New Member and Transfer welcome packages were presented.

Board Members Election

Two (2) - Two (2) year positions to vote on..

Nominations:

1. Tracy Dunn
2. Chris Scardino
3. Bob Grotz

Bylaws Committee Meeting is being scheduled.

Christmas Shopping for Sid's kids. Shopping Date: Tuesday 12/10/24 at 9:30am at the Walmart on Rt 70

Delivery Date: Friday 12/13 to the Manatee County Sherriff Office, Child Protection Services

2025 will be our chapters 30th year anniversary. President Gibbons will send an email for volunteers to serve on celebration committee. Tentatively Jan or Feb.

Thunder by the Bay Raffle tickets are being distributed. Contact President Gibbons for tickets to buy/ sell. We need volunteers for booth coverage.

TREASURERS REPORT: JOHN EMRICK

Motion to accepted November treasurers report: Motion - Jim Ryan, 2nd Dan Thompson , all approved

Financial Position: We will end the year with a surplus. All of the specific financial numbers will be available by request to our Treasurer.

SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO

Motion to accept November minutes Jim Ryan, 2nd Tracy Dunn, all approved.

SAFETY OFFICER: N/A - looking for someone to fill vacancy

CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK: N/A

SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT:

See Newsletter for details.

NEW BUSINESS: "Shoot with Bobby G" Scheduled for Friday January 10th. Pleast contact Bob or President Gibbons if you are attending

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

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

Jeffrey Longwell Geri Buscemi Chris Scardino

50-50 DRAWING: Amount: \$50 Winner: Geri Buscemi \$ 25

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Time: 7:40PM, Motion: John Chuisano, 2nd: Jim Kirkpatrick, all approved

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 7th, 2024

Submitted By: Domenic Ceccanecchio, Secretary BK XVIII



Ride with Pride!

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

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South Carolina
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Bermuda
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands

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NEWSLETTER: <https://srcknights.org/>

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<https://BKlouisiana16.org>

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



Venue At :
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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/>

Our Chaplains Page



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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THE MIXED BLESSING OF COOLER TEMPERATURES IN FLORIDA

The weather for motorcycle riding has finally shifted to our benefit, thank goodness! However, there is another side to consider with this blessing. The cooler temperatures will bring out many more motorcyclists than we see during the hot/humid weather and an increase in the number of four wheeled vehicles on our roads from the winter transient population.

According to an article in the Florida Realty Marketplace Blog [<https://www.floridarealtymarketplace.com/blog/10-surprising-statistics-on-snowbirds-in-florida-for-2023.html>]. There are about one million people who spend at least one month in Florida mainly between October and April. This translates into an increase in the local population of about 5% for all of Florida with Sarasota, Clearwater, Fort Myers, and Cape Coral being on the list of the top ten destinations giving the southwest coast of Florida a good portion of the winter resident influx. Of course, there are also the visiting tourists

All total; this increases the amount of traffic we will be dealing with during the next few months. There are multiple sources which discuss motorcycle accidents and their causes with one hazard consistently cited as the most significant, a driver not seeing the motorcycle. Not only don't people know how to adjust their mirrors to diminish blind spots, we also have drivers more focused on their cell phones, paying very little attention to the world around them, and there are plenty of impatient people making right-on-red turns at intersections.

The reason given is that they just did not see the motorcycle, which I am sure is true. However, I had people pull out in front of me when I drove a truck for North American Van Lines for a summer. If they did not see the big white semi-truck coming at them what chance does a motorcycle have with inattentive and impatient folks? I now watch the tires of cars poised to make the jump into traffic and not the driver. If the tires start to roll, it is time to take evasive action.

Florida's cooler temperatures are a true blessing. But they also bring the need to be extra vigilant.



Tracy Dunn
Director



SICK AND DISTRESSED

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

JEFFREY LONGWELL

GERI BUSCEMI

CHRIS SCARDINO

On The Lighter Side



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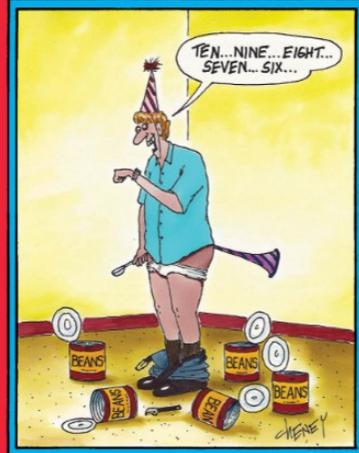
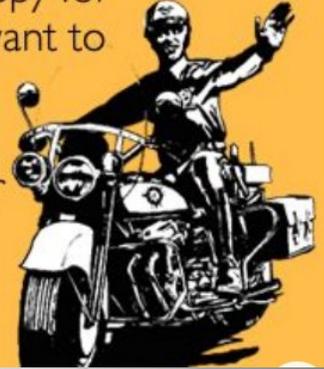
JANUARY 2025

They say money cant buy happiness, But, It can buy motorcycle parts....and those make me happy



motovationusa.com

If you want to be happy for a day, drink. If you want to be happy for a year, marry. But if you want to be happy for a lifetime, ride a motorcycle!



An Irish Girl comes back for New Years

The father asked, "Where have you been all this time? Why did you not write to us, not even a line? Why didn't you call?"

The girl crying replied, "Dad, I became a prostitute."

"Whaaa!!? Out of here you shameless harlot! You're a disgrace to this family."

"OK, daddy. If that's your wish. I just came back to give mum this luxurious fur coat, title deed to a ten bedroom mansion plus a savings certificate for £4 million."

"For me little brother, this gold Rolex and for you daddy, the sparkling new Mercedes limited edition convertible that's parked outside plus a membership to the country club and an invitation for you all to spend a fun New Years' Eve on board my new yacht in the Riviera, and..."

"Now what was it ye said you had become, again?" says dad.

Girl, crying again, "A prostitute dad!"

"Oh! You scared me half to death, girl! I thought you said a Protestant.

Come here and give your old dad a hug!"

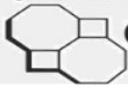


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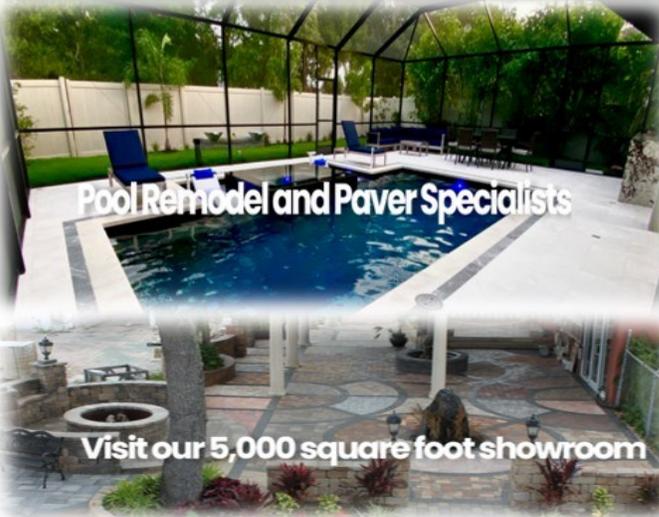
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Beverly Hills Dog Premier Doggy Daycare



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