

RDEWTH PRDE

BLUE KNIGHTS[®]FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

Message from your President

Greetings Fellow Knights,

Congratulations Chapter FL XVIII. The 2023 SRC in Venice Florida was a huge success. This event has been a few years in the making and the last year has been full steam ahead. This event would have never happened if not for the chapter members and spouses of FL XVIII stepping up and accepting the challenge.

Thank you all for coming out to the meetings and the ride planning. Thank you for all the donations of goods and services. The amount of great ideas, problem solving, and working as a team was priceless, and it helps to build strong bonds within the chapter. We all come from different backgrounds and past experiences, to see everyone come together working for the same purpose was wonderful and exciting. I know our Blue Knights Family guests enjoyed what the Suncoast chapter had to offer.

We were able to raise \$1500 between the poker tournament, coin sales, and the Booty Chest for the Blue Knights COPs Run. We also passed the hat and asked for a chapter challenge and received over \$700 in additional donations to help with this charity. Awesome!

I would also like to thank all the Blue Knights from our Conference who came out in support, also the Blue Knights who traveled from Colombia, Wales, Germany and from all across the USA. We had a lot of people (close to 300) hanging out for days. Riding, playing games, eating and catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Last but not least a special thank you to our VIP Guest speaker one of Founding Father of the Blue Knights Mr. Charles Chuck Shuman. His words were truly inspirational and a reminder of what the vision was when this great fraternal organization was founded.

> 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 5/2

5:30 PM - Dinner at the Hot Sands Tiki Bar. 600 N Beneva Road Sarasota

7:00 PM - Monthly General Meeting. FOP Lodge #3 3600 Circus Blvd Sarasota.

Monday 5/8

11:00 AM - Lunch at Rocco's Tacos (new place at UTC) 243 N Cattleman Dr Sarasota.

Saturday 5/20

10:45AM Ride - Meet at FOP Lodge #3, 11:00 AM KSU. Heading to Adrenaline Harley Davidson for the made in the 80's event. 3 bands and food trucks. The event runs from 11AM to 6PM so come by car or bike you can always meet up at the Harley dealership if you can't make KSU.



This month is a little light on activities having just hosted the SRC, Mother's Day weekend, and Memorial Day weekend. As always if you want to plan a ride anytime during the month let President Gibbons know and he will post it (you lead it).

With the rainy season slowing coming up make sure to check your email and or Facebook before the ride. Look for pop-up dinner rides on the few dry beautiful evenings this summer.



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 TreasurerJohn Emrick SecretaryDomenic Ceccanecchio Sergeant at Arms ... James Ryan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VINCENT SPADARO Christopher Scardino Rory MacConnell / Past President

OPERATIONS

James Kirkpatrick / Chaplain Domenic Ceccanecchio / Webmaster Timothy Van Schultz / Quartermaster Michael Klein / 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

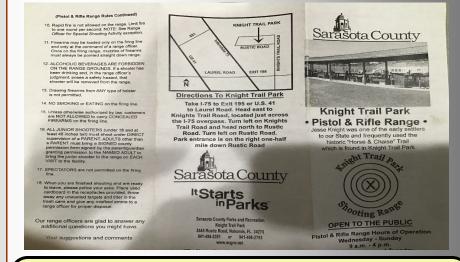
Jim Thomas alexandjay1988@gmail.com

Dom Ceccanecchio dcc444@comcast.net



Lets Go Shooting

BOBBY GROTZ HAS OFFERED AN INVITATION TO GO SHOOTING AT THE KNIGHTS TRAIL PARK RANGE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 2ND AT 9:00 AM. WE CAN GRAB LUNCH AFTERWARDS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL BGROTZ2@YAHOO.COM AND IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COPY PRESIDENT GIBBONS AT PJGIBBY1969@comcast.net This is something new THAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER.



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 BK Florida XVIII



<u>FOR SALE</u>: 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 \$150 or B/O for everything. Call Don 585-739-3465. Leave message for call back or email: dapnyiv@yahoo.com

SEND YOUR SALE ITEMS TO ADD TO OUR MARKET

















MAY 2023





MAY

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

As a Taurus, you're a wonderful combination of laid–back and hard–working. You're honest and loyal, occasionally to a fault. Your determination and attention to detail will take you far in life. Playful and intellectually curious,



Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Gemini is constantly juggling a variety of passions, hobbies, careers, and friend groups. They are the social butterflies of the zodiac: These quick-witted twins can talk to anyone about anything. Find them buzzing between



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.

Fellow Knights

Current Financial Position:

- All accounts are current and all outstanding bills have been paid.
- SRC receipts are currently being processed.
- We Made a \$1500 donation to the COPS RUN Foundation at the SRC. We also collected over \$700 by passing the hat at the conference. This will also go the COPS RUN Foundation.
- John Emerick is preparing an after action report for the SRC conference. Send concerns, pluses to John.

John Emerick Chapter Treasurer

Treasurers Report

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT RORY MACCONNELL

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 ww.BKI2023International.com

Blue Knights, International 👔 Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc. 🛛

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



MAY 2023

Springtime a true blessing!

The smell of spring is in the air, the Blue Knights Southern Regional Conference was upon us. A great time to thank our lord, for the fellowship we have with our law enforcement brothers and sisters across the region. Apart from any religious practice, the awakening of the earth to new life after the barrenness of winter stirs the human spirit. It comes as no surprise that people of many religious and spiritual understandings find meaning in this glorious time of year.

Springtime is a holy season for many people of varying religious faiths and for those who see, in the earth's renewal, the possibilities for self-renewal. During this holy season may we all find ways to honor the spiritual paths of others as we draw strength and hope from our own journey during this gorgeous time of year. I pray we honor each other and encourage those whose lives feel dark even during creations' springtime beauty.

We hoped our guests, felt the comfort and welcoming spirit the Blue Knights Chapter XVIII has worked hard to provide, and that our beautiful oasis brought peace and harmony during their short visit.



James Kirkpatrick, Chaplain

And God said, I will send them without wings so no one suspects they are angels.

SICK AND DISTRESSED

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

RORY MACCONNELL

CECE MACCONNELL

GERI BUSCEMI

JOSEPH FANCIULLI



JEFFREY LONGWELL

PAUL FIEBER

VERONICA ANDERSON

JIMMY KIRKPATRICK

ROBIN GRUTERS



Meeting Call to Order: by President Gibbons @ 7:05PM

In attendance: Executive officers: 4

Officers: 4 Members: 24

Guests: 8

Pledge of Allegiance: led by President Gibbons

Invocation: Chaplain James Kirkpatrick

Welcoming Remarks: President Gibbons welcomed all members and guests. Recognized Mark Bielawski from Missouri III **PRESIDENTS REPORT**: PATRICK GIBBONS

- President Gibbons presented an award to member Don Parker for 30 years in the Blue Knights
- Tumblers. The company is changing the product and the price point. No more tumblers will be ordered at this time.
- President Gibbons displayed a sample of the conference tee-shirt.
- Lydia Grotz went through the many committee accomplishments.
- Everyone is asked to wear either pirate garb or white shirts, dark (preferably black) pants and BK colors.
- Bob Grotz received a \$100 donation from Thunder by the Bay for chapter use.
- Pincers gave President Gibbons gift/coupon cards valued at \$9 each.
- Brewbergers gave President Gibbons gift cards valued at \$5each.
- Vinny Spadaro asked for volunteers to serve as road captains and sweeps for the rides. A signup sheet was distributed .
- There was discussion regarding lanyards, We will be wearing red lanyards, guests will be given blue lanyards.
- Scooter races have been eliminated for safety and liability reasons.
- Members are reminded that Blue Knights items are trademarked and should never be sold, donated or distributed on the open market.
- The new chapter patches are now available for purchase.
- As previously announced, we have begun a survey of all chapter members in order to assess needs and make improvements to the chapter. You should expect to receive a call from one of the executive officers.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: JAMES THOMAS: N/A

TREASURERS REPORT: JOHN EMRICK

- Motion to accept MARCH Treasurers Report: Motion: Jim Ryan 2nd: Bob Grotz Unanimous Approval
- Current Financial Position is solid and all bills have been paid.
- As of this date there are over 240 people registered for the conference.

SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO

Motion to accept MARCH Minutes: Motion: Rory MacConnell 2nd: Jim Ryan Unanimous Approval

- The APRIL Newsletter and MARCH Minutes have been posted on the website along with the April Ride and Event Calendar. REMINDER: Our website BLUEKNIGHTSFLXVIII.COM password is password 1234680.
- The 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.
- We can generate revenue for the Chapter with minimal work by simply selling ads. Contact anyone on the Executive Board if you find a potential sponsor.

SAFETY OFFICER: MICHAEL KLEIN

On behalf of the safety officer, President Gibbons announced that we are looking into a motorcycle safety course for advanced riders that will be conducted at the fairgrounds. More to come....

CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK:

All were asked to remember our sick and distressed in our prayers.

SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT: See above

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: See above

NEW BUSINESS: PJ Ovadia suggested that members bring/donate used BK motorcycle items to the SRC Conference for distribution. The suggestion was unanimously approved by the members in attendance.

SICK AND DISTRESSED: Please keep our sick and distressed members and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Rory MacConnell, CeCe MacConnell, Geri Buscemi, Joseph Fanciulli, Jeffrey Longwell, Paul Fieber, Victoria Anderson, Jimmy Kirkpatrick, Robin Gruters

50-50 DRAWING: Amount: \$125 Winner: Rory MacConnell \$62

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Time: 8:10PM Motion: Rory MacConnell, 2nd: Jimmy Kirkpatrick Unanimous Approval

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, MAY 2ND, 2023

Submitted By: Domenic Ceccanecchio Secretary BK XVIII

How to Spot an Unsafe Helmet

- Unsafe helmets will be less than 1 inch thick, and usually lack a stiff foam inner liner.
- Helmets meeting the DOT safety standard have sturdy chin straps with solid rivets. Unsafe helmets may have plastic buckles that can easily break in the event of a crash.
- Depending on design, unsafe helmets may weigh a pound or less. Helmets meeting the federal standard generally weigh about 3 pounds.
- Be suspicious of helmets with advertisements such as "thinnest helmet available" and "lightest weight helmet."
- The DOT safety standard does not allow anything to extend further than two-tenths of an inch from the surface of a helmet. For example, while visor fasteners are allowed, a rigid spike or other such decorations indicate an unsafe helmet.
- A design such as the German Army or skullcap style may be a clue to an • unsafe helmet. Unsafe helmets are noticeably smaller in diameter and thinner than ones meeting the DOT standard. However, some German Army style helmets may meet federal requirements.

THE SAFETY ZONE

Greeting Follow Blue Knights,

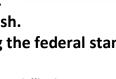
We are in search of Road Captains for the chapter that can help with the rides for the upcoming SRC Conference in April. What makes a go Road Captain? A person with leadership qualities the provides for the safety and welfare of a group of rides. Someone who is well organized, disciplined and avoids creating exacerbating hazardous situations. So, please consider stepping up to take on this role. I can provide the Road Captain Manuel for your review.

The manual consists of the following sections.

O TO

OBJECTIVES	THE LEADER	THE CHASE RIDER
Qualifications	Responsibilities	Safety Equipment
Road Captain Briefing	Pre-Ride Briefing	Riding Formations
Traffic Lanes	Lane Changes	Passing
Mentors	Practical Exercises	Final Approval
Maintaining Qualifications	Large Group Staging	

Anyone can learn to be a Road Captain help keep our members safe! We still plan to have an informal class and fun riding times sometime in early 2023.









MAY 2023





MAY 2023



VP Message Jim Thomas

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Good afternoon, I just want to take a moment to say thank you to everybody in the chapter who participated in, attended and put their hands in to help on the SRC. Not one single bad review has been submitted. Not one derogatory comment. Everybody has spoken very highly of the Blue Knights body as a whole. And I just want to personally thank the membership of this chapter for making this event, a huge, enormous, phenomenal, outstanding success. I have said this in the past and still hold to it. It's not the leadership that makes an organization successful. I t is the members. If the members are happy, they are going to work hard to make sure their organization stands tall and that is exactly what you guys did. So from the bottom of my heart, I give you my thanks. From the entertainment committee to the hospitality committee to administrative and accounting and sign in and set up and breakdown, we laid on a good party. Our dungeon was an enormous success. The dungeon mistress, and her Igor did a fantastic job. The ballroom was impeccable and beautiful. As a whole, I've never seen an organization of bikers do as well as this was done. Thanks to all those who joined me personally in the execution of the honor guard and ride control. Thanks to Patrick for doing such a good job.

Special note:

We had a group of ladies that took an idea for a theme and totally went off the hook. They spent hours and hours planning purchasing and getting prepared for this and what was expected to be a membership attendance in the high 200s turned into 300+ and we were ready for them. And the only reason we were ready for them is because the entertainment committee did such an extraordinary job. That ballroom looked like it was laid out by a professional company. Very impressive ladies.



Fellow Knights,

Being an advocate for a healthy lifestyle through proper exercise and diet, my goal is for the reader to live a strong, long, and healthy life. Let's get all we can from our pensions that we all worked hard to obtain by beating the odd and living a long and healthy life. Through this introductory article and more to come each month, I hope to provide tips to improve your health.

Before starting any kind of workout and diet, I strongly suggest that you go for a complete physical to find out what your limits maybe so you can prevent any injuries. This also helps with getting a doctor's support and opinion on healthy lifestyle.

Upon my retirement continue to train and train others. It's not about the weight you can lift or how you may look. The purpose of living a healthy lifestyle is how you feel inside. Remember this, a person is not going to ask you, how much you bench but rather tell you, you look good for you age.

Exercising is a fantastic way to stay active after retirement. It not only gives your health a boost, but also allows you to live independently as you age. Now that you have more time, it's simple to develop an exercise plan that works for your schedule. Experts recommend exercising for at least 150 minutes every week.

I am proud to say that at 52 this past October, I competed in a Men's physique competition, and came in 2nd place and 4th overall competing against men half my age. Let's work to get the body you deserve.

Director Chris Scardino Fitness Advocate and Trainer





MAY 2023

HONOR GUARD AND FLAG ETIQUETTE





As ambassadors to our law enforcement heritage, the Blue Knights often find themselves as representatives of the fallen. We may be sprinkled among the crowd of those in mourning; however, we still bear a certain responsibility to show respect to the family. At a funeral, it is important not to get caught up in moments of laughter and companionship unrelated to our cause as it may transitorily be misinterpreted. Always be aware of our actions.

The Blue Knights should consider having a more standard regarding appearance when summoned to a funeral. An honor guard may not always be the sole responsibility of the Blue Knights but in the event of such a calling it is not only an honor but a responsibility to uphold that honor. Being handed a folded flag is not easy and I continue to recall every movement before being handed the US Flag at my son's funeral. We must continue to be professional when we have that calling and show respect. Perhaps not all of us recall the definition of terms used in facing movements, or how to perform them, but we should. Trying to perform them or know them when standing in scrutiny of a family with their loss is likely too late. We certainly cannot expect to have perfect precision, exceptional military bearing, and perfect shapely specimens (we are older), but conversely, we should not be awkward, unorganized, and confused either.

Forming a team, or keeping us all, substantially trained may not be difficult, but it is important to know the basics. In addition, our ambassadorship should further keep us well versed in flag etiquette. Knowing how to display the flag horizontally, vertically, on our vests (highest patch on the vest, typically left side), on our sleeve, and never showing disrespect to it, is basic knowledge. Something as simple as folding the American flag should be practiced and understood. As a key point each fold has a meaning from respecting our father and mother, to veterans, and God the Father on the twelve-fold. When folded the 4 stars (possibly six) represent the motto "in God we The flag etiquette holds strong implications if we carry it in honor of the fallen since cer-Trust". tain movements such as an about face or to the rear march is not allowed with the flag as it is a sign of retreat. In our area (Florida) with so many HOA's around many get confused if they can display the flag. Strong and proud my brothers and sisters ever since the American Flag Act of 2005. Another topic of interest for veterans is the Defense Authorization Act of 2009 which signified that veterans not in uniform may render a hand salute when the flag is lowered, raised, and during the national anthem and the pledge of allegiance. The flag is representative of our Country, white signifies purity and innocence; red, hardiness and valor; and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

There is often another myth about the 21-gun salute as the action at every veteran's funeral when in fact the 21-gun salute is only for dignitaries such as the President. The proper term is "firing of the volley" for veterans, law enforcement, corrections, firefighters, etc. Historically it was a volley to deplete the seven cannons on the ship to let those on land know they were friendly and a return from those on land.

Our Blue Knights should consider building an honor guard style standard wear that represents our law enforcement heritage coupled with our love for motorcycles. This uniform should be part of a standard for all. Perhaps that may be a long sleeve white shirt with the American flag on the left shoulder and the Blue Knights chapter patch on the right. That, in conjunction to our vests, and black boots would be feasible. Regardless, just something more than someone wearing a Red Sox hat and bright white tennis shoes and a wrinkled white t-shirt. Looking professional does not mean we have to be perfect soldiers with high value debonair clothing...but it should mean honorable.

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.



330 Cattlemen Rd. Sarasota, FL 34232



941.951.6103 www.adrenalinehd.com



MAY 2023

Beverly Hills Dog **Mission BBQ** Premier Doggy Daycare ***** For tiny, small and medium sized dogs **118 Reviews** 2030 Bispham Road Sarasota 34231 Hours: 11am - 9pm 941-822-0888 5231 University Pkwy, Sarasota http://www.beverlyhillsdog.net (941) 841-9279 CONCIERGE OVERNIGHT CARE AVAILABLE ARE YOU LIVING VOGUE GUE **REALTOR - Charles Ratliff** 1540 Main St, Sarasota, FL 34236 732-735-0738 charles@livingvogue.com WEBSITE: https://mission-bbq.com

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