



Proud Host of the
Spring 2023 Southern Regional Conference
Thursday, April 27th thru Sunday, April 30th



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

GREETINGS BROTHERS AND SISTERS KNIGHT'S WELCOME TO OUR SECOND EDITION OF THE FL XVIII NEWSLETTER.

OUR CHAPTER HAD TO MAKE SOME CHANGES TO OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD. RORY McCONNELL'S HEALTH ISSUES AND TREATMENT PLAN AS WELL AS HIS OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES IN OUR ORGANIZATION HAS MADE HIM STEP DOWN AS OUR CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT. RORY WILL BE OUR IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT AND WILL STILL BE ACTIVE AND HELP US MOVE FORWARD WITH ALL OUR CHANGES. AS I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS RORY IS A BULL AND A FIGHTER. HE HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF OUR BLUE KNIGHTS FAMILY WITH THIS AND THE GRACE OF GOD HE WILL KICK THIS CANCER. PLEASE KEEP THE MACCONNELL FAMILY IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.

A BIG THANK YOU TO JIM THOMAS OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT, DOM CECCANECHIO OUR NEW SECRETARY AND WEBMASTER, JIM RYAN OUR SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DIRECTOR, AND CHRIS SCARDINO DIRECTOR. WE SHIFTED AROUND AND OUR MEMBERS STEPPED UP WHEN NEEDED TO FILL THE POSITIONS TO KEEP US GOING. I'M EXCITED AND LOOKING FORWARD TOWARDS THE NEXT YEAR WORKING WITH THIS NEW BOARD. WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO WITH THUNDER BY THE BAY AND THE SPRING 2023 SRC IN VENICE OUR CHRISTMAS CHARITIES, NEW CLOTHING DRIVE FOR OUR LESS FORTUNATE SCHOOL CHILDREN AND PLENTY OF RIDES AND EVENTS IN BETWEEN.

WE ARE FINALLY STARTING TO SEE SOME COOLER WEATHER AND HOPEFULLY LESS RAIN AS WE HEAD INTO OUR RIDING SEASON. AS THE SEASON CHANGES WE WILL START TO SEE MANY DIFFERENT EVENTS. I CAN'T WAIT TO ENJOY ANOTHER FLORIDA WINTER FULL OF SUN AND FUN.

WITH OCTOBER APPROACHING WE WILL START TO FOCUS ON OUR CHAPTER RENEWALS. PLEASE BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE DUES RENEWAL NOTIFICATION. AS ALWAYS YOU CAN PAY AT OUR MONTHLY MEETING OR MAIL TO OUR NEW ADDRESS. BLUE KNIGHTS FLXVIII PO BOX 2031 SARASOTA FL 34230.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MANY GATHERINGS WE HAVE SCHEDULED. BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER, RIDES AND FUN RUNS. COME OUT TO THE MEALS IN YOUR CAR, BIKE, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, WALK IF YOU MUST JUST COME OUT. THE DAYS AND TIMES CHANGE SO EVERYONE HAS A CHANCE TO COME OUT. THE LOCATIONS ALSO MOVE AROUND OUR CHAPTER AREA TO MAKE IT MORE CONVENIENT FOR EVERYONE. BRING FRIENDS AND FAMILY. THE BEST WAY TO GET TO KNOW YOUR BROTHER AND SISTER KNIGHTS IS TO COME OUT AND ENJOY SOME GOOD FOOD AND CONVERSATION. BUILD SOME NEW FRIENDSHIPS WITH YOUR BLUE KNIGHTS FAMILY. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR SPOUSES IN ALL OUR EVENTS HAVING A FULL TABLE OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY IS A TRUE BLESSING. THE BONDS WE BUILD HELP US WHEN WE HAVE OUR EVENTS AND WORK ON OUR CHARITIES.

Ride with Pride
Patrick Gibbons



October Ride and Activity Schedule

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

Saturday, October 1st

9:30 AM we will meet at the FOP Lodge #3 and ride to the "Beyond Bikes 2nd Anniversary Party" at 6730 15th St E, unit K Sarasota. There will be food trucks, music and a bike show.

Tuesday, October 4th

Dinner at the "Hot Sands Tiki Bar " at the Shrine , 3600 Circus Blvd, followed by our Monthly Chapter Meeting at 7:00 PM at the FOP Lodge 3.

Thursday, October 13th

Lunch 11:00 AM at Ford's Garage 295N Cattlemen RD unit 1 Sarasota.

Tuesday, October 18th

9:00 AM Breakfast at Yoders, 3434 Bahia Vista St., Sarasota, FL

Featured Ride

Sunday, October 23rd.

Chapter Ride 10:00 AM to Gigglewaters (speakeasy) 737 Main St., Safety Harbor FL 34695 for lunch.

Meeting at the Speedway Gas station SR70, Bradenton with KSU at 10:15 AM.

Step back in time to the prohibition era.

Gigglewaters has great food and cocktails and a nostalgic atmosphere.



After wards, we can walk around Safety Harbor.



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VP Message Jim Thomas

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

First allow me to say thank you for the honor of having been asked to represent the Chapter as its newest Vice President. For those who don't know me yet, I am a rider since the ripe old age of 5. I have mounted everything from Brit to domestic to Japanese bikes. I have ridden over the years with a few organizations and have served in officer capacity in several. I began my service as a Military Police officer in 1985 and decided to hang it up as a senior Non Commissioned Officer in 2018. I have served Law Enforcement, Operations, Battalion and Brigade staff, Recruiting, Training, Military MSF instructor and last but not least a leader of soldiers. I am a Conservative and believe in old fashioned morals and enjoy a good ride to absolutely nowhere in particular. I am a husband and father of three sons, three daughters in law and four grandkids who all at the moment know what they were upon birth. I am old fashioned and feel you work for what you earn and try very hard to lead by example which I am proud to say I am not perfect at. I have been a Knight since 2014 and have really enjoyed my experience in XVIII thus far.



I will always try to do what's best for the chapter and will never place my own recognition above what we need as a club. My first thing I would like to address is the poor conditions of our meeting place and have already begun to work with Patrick and the board to remedy the environment we are calling a home base. "Ride with Pride" should start with where we meet.

Secondly, I would like to get the volunteers for the hospitality committee to call me at 941-725-2239 so I can lock everyone in and set up a meeting to get ideas and start working out our plan for a successful event. I am so stoked about our SRC and can't wait to participate in it. All ideas are welcome. We may not incorporate all in full but we will fully incorporate all of most to get where we need to be. Clear as mud right?

So many ideas and so little time to keep you engaged in my babbling. I look forward to being your VP and wish you all a very pleasant month and I will see ya at the next meeting or ride.

SRC UPDATE

Jerry Hunt President of FL XVII (Tampa) is our new State Representative. . Jerry has been down to our chapter for a few things most recently the 9/11 Memorial ride. Our congratulations to Jerry on his new appointment Chapter FL XVIII is next door if you need us.

2023 Spring Conference

**WE 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)

BANQUET / BBQ COMMITTEE: Chairman Tom Yacca (rotocycle44@yahoo.com)

OPERATIONS: Paul Fieber (acegolf3@msn.com)

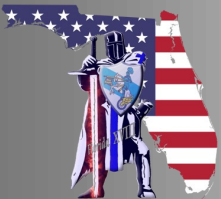
HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: Chairman -- Jim Thomas (jthomas@berlinwall.us)

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

CAPPUCCINO / ESPRESSO TRAILER EVENINGS - Jack Ovadia (jbtvx1300@gmail.com)

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

RIDE COMMITTEE: Chairman Vinny Spadaro (vinnie189@verizon.net)



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Blue Knights® International
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.



From 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 www.BKI2023International.com

Recruitment and retention is all members job.... constantly wear you colors and promote the organization any chance you have.

Due Diligance

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.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S' DESK.....

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

There are still several membership cards that have not been picked up. Membership cards and decals are available at the monthly chapter meetings. If you cannot attend, please ask someone that you know to pick up your id card for you. You can also receive your card by sending me a self-addressed, stamped envelope and I will mail your card out to you.

Send your self-addressed, stamped envelope care of:

Domenic Ceccanecchio
5008 Creekside Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243



Dom Ceccanecchio
Ride with Pride



SICK AND DISTRESSED

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

CECE MACCONNELL IS ACTIVE BUT STILL HEALING FROM HER SURGERY. A GOFUND ME PAGE HAS BEEN CREATED TO HELP COVER HER MEDICAL AND HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES.
CECEJUDGEMACCONNELL

RORY MACCONNELL IS RECEIVING TREATMENT AND IN LONG TERM RECOVERY!

TOM POST IS HOME AND BEING UNDER DOCTORS CARE.

PAUL FIEBER ON THE MEND BUT TRYING TO STAY ACTIVE.

KEEP VICTORIA DOMENCIELLO ANDERSON IN YOUR PRAYERS.

YOU TRADED
IN OUR
MINIVAN FOR
A HARLEY?!!?

RELAX...I'M NOT
STUPID.

I ORDERED A
SIDECAR FOR
YOU AND THE KIDS.

Treasurers Report

Fellow Knights

- All of our accounts are up to date and balanced, the Chapter finances are in the black
- SRC Registrations are coming in each week and all funds have been deposited into our account
- Reminder, yearly dues are coming soon



John Emerick
Chapter Treasurer





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

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

Operations

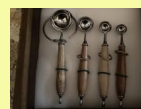
Timothy Van Schultz / Quartermaster
 James Kirkpatrick / Safety Officer
 James Kirkpatrick / Chaplain

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



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, as we plan to have an informal class and fun riding times at the end of October. The manual consists of the following sections.

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 and help keep our members safe!
 Looking forward to October training.**

**Jim Kirkpatrick
 Safety Officer**





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Chaplains Message



The message this month is to encourage the power of prayer for our sick and distressed members throughout the Blue Knights organization and especially those dear and near to us.

"A vast crowd brought to him people who were lame, blind, crippled, those who couldn't speak, and many others. They laid them before Jesus, and he healed them all (Matthew 15:30.) The message this month is to encourage prayer Jesus' earthly ministry was focused on healing; the sick, such as physical deformities and incurable diseases; through God's grace these healing miracles occurred.

“

Heavenly Father,
We lift up all those who
are facing various illnesses.

Give them the hope and
courage they need today and
every day. Comfort their pain,
calm their fears, and surround
them with Your peace.
In Jesus' name, Amen.”

CIRCLE OF PRAYER



James Kirkpatrick, Chaplain

Letters to the President . . .

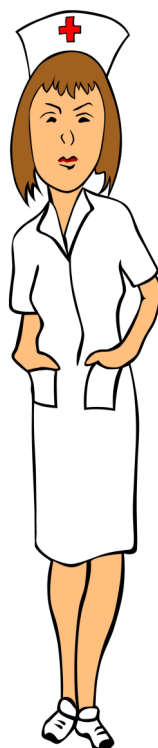
Send us your letters, suggestions, or any special event you would like to share.

Patrick Gibbons pjgibby1969@comcast.net

Jim Thomas jthomas@berlinwall.us

Dom Ceccanecchio dc444@comcast.net

We need and want your input



A motorcycle patrolman was rushed to hospital with an inflamed appendix. The doctors operated on him and when he came round he was relieved when they told him all had gone to plan and he was going to be fine.

But the patrolman kept feeling something pulling at the hairs on his chest. He was worried that something may be wrong but he was still too weak from the surgery to do anything. Eventually, he managed to pull his hospital gown down enough to check what was causing the discomfort. When he looked down at his chest he saw three wide strips of ultra-adhesive tape stuck firmly to him. Written on it in large black letters was the message:

“Get well soon... from the nurse you gave the ticket to last week. I'll be round to remove the tape later.”



What kind of a bike does a cow love riding?

A cow rides a Cowasaki Mootorcycle!

WEEKEND CHOICES



WHICH WILL YOURS BE?

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FROM THE WEB
WWW.BLUEKNIGHTSFLXVIII.COM

BEWARE OF SCAMMERS

Scammers goals are to get your personal information and money. Their strategies constantly change with the times. Fraudsters know people are most vulnerable when they're desperate or scared, and they may use crises and pressure tactics to prey on their victims.

Here are a few basic security measures that can help protect you from the latest and most common scams:

- **Be skeptical when someone contacts you.** Scammers can spoof calls and emails to make it look like they are coming from different sources, including government agencies, charities, banks and large companies. Don't share personal information, usernames, passwords or one-time codes that others can use to access your accounts or steal your identity.
- **Enable multi-factor authentication.**
- **Research companies before you make a purchase or donations.** Do a web search for its name plus "scam" or "reviews" and research charities on Charity Navigator and CharityWatch.
- **Be careful with your phone.** If you suspect a spam call, don't respond or press a button. The safest option is to hang up or ignore the call entirely.
- **Don't refund or forward overpayments.** Be careful whenever a company or person asks you to refund or forward part of a payment. Often, the original payment will be fraudulent and taken back later.
- **Look for suspicious payment requirements.** Scammers often ask for payments via wire transfer, money order, crypto currency or gift cards. These payments can be harder to track and cancel than other forms of payment, which can leave you stuck without recourse.

If you're the victim of a scam, you can file a report with the FTC and your local law enforcement. The report may help others avoid similar scams.

Dom Ceccanecchio. Webmaster



Thank You!

to our Sponsors

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**BRICK PAVERS
& TRAVERTINE**

By **PAVING
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(941) 360-0203

info@pavingcrew.com

<https://pavingcrew.com>



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(941) 841-9279

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yelp



DEALERSHIP HOURS

Monday - Friday	10:00 AM - 6:00
Saturday	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday	12:00 PM - 4:00

330 Cattlemen Road
Sarasota, FL 34232

Phone : [941 951 6103](tel:9419516103)

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CONCIERGE OVERNIGHT CARE AVAILABLE

