



Merry Christmas



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Seasons Greetings Fellow Blue Knights,

It's the most wonderful time of the year (*in sunny South West Florida.*) The weather is beautiful and we get to do our charity shopping and delivering of children's gifts with sunny warm days. We have our Chapter Christmas party filled with delicious food, dancing, fun rain deer games and more. Christmas time in Florida is a true blessing. I will take a white sand beach over snow any day!

December is when we finish collecting our chapter dues and prepare for the next year. This New Year 2025 will mark the 30th anniversary of FL XVIII.

We have some new members who have joined our chapter recently and we are always looking for some more new members. We are all recruiters and represent the Blue Knights. Invite potential members out to a meeting or function all are welcome. We need to keep the membership up to make another 30 years.

With a new year on the horizon maybe you can start planning on participating in some of the scheduled activities or impromptu rides. Try to get involved even if its lunch!

If you want to see something new or changed come out get involved and make it happen. Blow off the dust on that vest and come out and meet the chapter. We have some great people who have joined our chapter in the past four years get to know them. We have multiple breakfast, lunch and dinners scheduled come by bike or car no problem. We have range days (Bobby G Shoot Out) come out and shoot its lots of fun. We have some long rides coming up and Thunder By The Bay!

So as we close out 2024 I am looking forward to 2025 and everything it has to offer!

Merry Christmas to all of you!!!

Ride with Pride
Patrick Gibbons
President, FLXVIII



December Ride and Event Schedule

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



Sunday 12/1, Please RSVP in for the Christmas Party. Even if you are going to pay for your tickets at the meeting call or text President Gibbons and let him know how many will be in your party.

Tuesday 12/3 — 5:30 PM

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

Tuesday 12/3 — 7:00 PM

Monthly Membership Meeting
2nd floor of the Shrine 600 N Beneva RD, Sarasota.
PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR 2025 CHAPTER DUES RENEWAL

Saturday 12/7

Chapter Christmas Party 6-10PM
Palm Aire Country Club.
\$30 PP. RSVP BY 12/1.



Saturday 12/14 — 11:30 AM

Lunch at the Spanish Point Tiki Bar
135 Bayview Dr Osprey 34229

Sunday 12/22 — 11:30 AM

Lunch at the Linger Lodge
7116 85th St Ct E Bradenton 34202



DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER WE WILL HAVE A SHOPPING DAY FOR OUR KIDS! THE DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED.

PLEASE CONSIDER COMING OUT TO SHOP ITS FUN AND REWARDING TO FILL THE KIDS LIST!! WE CAN DO LUNCH AFTER OR BREAKFAST BEFORE WE SHOP. (WALMART ON 70/75)

WE WILL ALSO HAVE A DELIVERY DAY CLOSER TO CHRISTMAS. WE DELIVER THE CHILDREN'S GIFTS TO THE MANATEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. CHILDREN'S SERVICES. WE CAN ALSO DO BREAKFAST OR LUNCH ON DELIVERY DAY. THIS DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED.





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

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TRACY DUNN
CHRISTOPHER SCARDINO

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DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / WEBMASTER
BRIAN MACCONNELL / QUARTERMASTER
VACANT / 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
pgibby1969@comcast.net

Jim Thomas
alexandjay1988@gmail.com

Dom Ceccanecchio
dcc444@comcast.net



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.
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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



George Anderson has a set of
custom ladies brown half leather
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



SEND YOUR SALE ITEMS TO ADD TO OUR MARKET



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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 !!!!

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 _____



Director Elections

We have two Directors positions due for re-election.

If any member is interested in running for a Directors position please submit your nomination by e-mail to President Gibbons PJGIBBY1969@comcast.net and our Secretary, Dom Ceccanecchio DC444@COMCAST.NET before the December 3rd meeting.



**CHRRRR MERRY
RRRISTMAS**

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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**Blue Knights
Florida XVIII**

Christmas Party

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
6PM TO 10:30PM**

**PALM AIRE COUNTRY CLUB
5601 COUNTRY CLUB WAY
SARASOTA, FL 34243**

TICKETS \$30 PER PERSON

R.S.V.P BY 12/1 TO PJGIBBY1969@COMCAST.NET BY 12/1

December Chapter Meeting



**THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS
7:00PM ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2024
2ND FLOOR OF THE SAHIB SHRINE
600N BENEVA RD SARASOTA.**

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



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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.



Blue Knights® International
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.



(Office Hours 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM EST)

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Bangor, ME, USA 04401
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hq@blueknights.org

Sales E-Mail
sales@blueknights.org

Membership E-Mail
membership@blueknights.org
renewals@blueknights.org

Public Relations Dept. E-Mail
publicrelations@blueknights.org

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



FLXVI Dinner Party



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Chapter Events

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VP Message—Jim Thomas



Hello brothers and sisters,

It's been a very short month. We've had a few good rides and are always looking for more people to join us.

Our numbers are slowly increasing and we extend our welcome to few new members. I believe they're going to be at the next meeting, so please give them a warm welcome. We also have a few new applications currently in the pipeline.

I'm sorry I missed the dinner with our brothers to the south. I know it was probably a fun filled evening.

The banners are being created right now for the "Thunder by the Bay" gun raffle. Budweiser should be completing the mock up sometime this week.

I wanna put out a reminder that dues are now due.

I want to take this moment to wish you all, the most joyous of holiday seasons starting with Thanksgiving through New Year's. The Holidays are upon us and the Christmas Party is coming up. I Can't wait ! Please ensure that your Christmas party reservations are made. I think it's going to be a great time and as always it's always good to remember safety when consuming adult beverages. Over indulgence is never a good thing that means turkey, booze, and excessive good times, lol.

The evening air is getting chilly so please ensure you take warm gear with you if riding and that's about all for the day. I will see you guys at the meeting.

Be well, and keep the handlebars up.



Veteran's Day - November 11th





November Chapter Meeting Highlights

BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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Meeting Call to Order: by [President Gibbons](#) @ 7:02PM

In attendance: Executive officers: 4 Officers: 6 Members: 15 Guests: 1

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

Invocation: by President Gibbons

Welcoming Remarks: by President Gibbons

Meeting decorum:

Please silence all phones and be courteous of the members around you. There have been complaints about talking during the meeting. It has been a problem for some members to hear the speakers.

Proper decorum dictates that if you want to speak raise your hand to be recognized. 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. Speakers should stay on the topic being discussed and only the topic of discussion.

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.

If you have something 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.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: PATRICK GIBBONS

The Chapter Christmas Party is on for Saturday 12/7 (6pm to 10pm) at the Palm Aire Country Club. 5601 Country Club Way Sarasota 34243 DJ, dancing reindeer games. \$30 pp. RSVP By November 23rd. Please Pay by the December 3rd meeting. Friends and family welcome – the more the merrier.

Our yearly December Charities "Manatee Sherriff CPS / Sid's kids", "Sid Jones". We need the information on the children and wish-lists. We are setting up a shopping date. Looking for volunteer shoppers.

Thunder by the Bay: 1000 tickets have been purchased. I will be purchasing the raffle gun in the next week. The local stores are starting the holiday sales promotions so hopefully we can find a good bundle pack and decent price.

FL XVI Dinner Dance, Saturday 11/23/2004. Doors open at 5:00PM. Dinner at 6:00PM, Dance and prizes at 7:00PM. \$30.00PP. Only 75 tickets sold.

We have had some unscheduled rides. Please check with VP Jim Thomas and Road Captain Michael Klein if you would like to ride. This is a great way to get in more rides each month.

Chapter renewal. \$40.00 Please pay your dues for 2025.

TREASURERS REPORT: JOHN EMRICK

Motion to accepted October treasurers report. Motion Michael Klein, 2nd Jim Thomas, all approved

The 50/50 winnings have offset some of our costs/expenses.

Financial Position: All of the specific financial numbers will be available by request to our Treasurer.

SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO

Motion to accept October minutes Tracy Dunn, 2nd Michael Klein, all approved.

The November Newsletter (including the October minutes) and the ride and activity schedule (in calendar) were emailed to the membership and posted on the website.

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

CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK: N/A

SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT:

See Newsletter for details.

NEW BUSINESS : See Above

OLD BUSINESS: Michael Klien thanked everyone who donated to assist woman in need from hurricane.

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: \$60 Winner: Geri Buscemi \$30

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Time: _____ PM, Motion: _____, 2nd: _____, all approved

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, 2024

Submitted By: Domenic Ceccanecchio, Secretary BK XVIII



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:

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SRC WEBSITE— <https://srcknights.org/>
NEWSLETTER: <https://srcknights.org/>

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DECEMBER 2024

SCAN
ME



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la16@blueknights.org



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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 DECEMBER 2024

Jesus and Santa Claus



The Origins of Santa Claus

St. Nicholas: The origins of Santa Claus can be traced back to the 4th-century Christian bishop, St. Nicholas, who was known for his generosity and kindness. He was revered for his acts of charity and his reputation for secret gift-giving, which laid the foundation for the modern-day figure of Santa Claus. **Dutch Tradition:** In the 16th century, Dutch settlers brought the tradition of St. Nicholas, or "Sinterklaas," to America. This tradition involved the celebration of St. Nicholas' feast day on December 6th, where children would receive gifts in his honor. **Evolution of Name:** Over time, the name "Sinterklaas" evolved into "Santa Claus," and the image of this gift-giving figure became intertwined with the celebration of Christmas on December 25th.

Connection Between Santa Claus and the Birth of Jesus Christ

1. **Spirit of Generosity:** At the heart of both Santa Claus and the birth of Jesus Christ is the spirit of generosity and compassion. Santa Claus, inspired by the selfless acts of St. Nicholas, embodies the joy of giving and sharing with others, mirroring the teachings of Jesus to love one another and care for those in need.
2. **Symbol of Goodwill:** Santa Claus serves as a symbol of goodwill and kindness, promoting the values of empathy and charity during the Christmas season. Similarly, the birth of Jesus Christ represents the ultimate expression of God's love for humanity, emphasizing the importance of forgiveness, grace, and the promise of salvation.
3. **Emphasis on Love and Joy:** Both Santa Claus and the birth of Jesus Christ emphasize the virtues of love, joy, and hope. Santa's jovial presence and the act of gift-giving reflect the festive spirit of Christmas, while the birth of Jesus heralds a message of peace and joy for all mankind, transcending cultural and religious boundaries.
4. **Celebration of Faith and Traditions:** The connection between Santa Claus and the birth of Jesus Christ lies in the celebration of faith and traditions. While Santa Claus represents the secular aspects of Christmas, the holiday remains rooted in the commemoration of the birth of Jesus, uniting believers in the observance of religious customs and spiritual reflection.
5. **Teaching of Moral Values:** Santa Claus, through folklore and popular culture, reinforces moral values such as honesty, kindness, and the importance of being charitable. In a similar vein, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ exemplify moral principles that guide individuals towards righteousness, compassion, and the pursuit of righteousness.
6. **Symbolism of Light and Hope:** Both Santa Claus and the birth of Jesus Christ carry symbolism related to light and hope. Santa's association with the North Pole and the delivery of gifts symbolizes the spreading of joy and light during the darkest time of the year. Likewise, the birth of Jesus represents the dawning of a new era, bringing the light of salvation and the hope of redemption to humanity.
7. **Unifying Elements of Tradition:** While Santa Claus and the birth of Jesus Christ are distinct in their origins, they serve as unifying elements of tradition and celebration during the Christmas season. The coexistence of these symbols reflects the diversity of cultural expressions and the shared values of love, giving, and *togetherness that define the holiday spirit.*
8. *The connection between Santa Claus and the birth of Jesus Christ underscores the multifaceted nature of Christmas, encompassing both secular and religious dimensions that resonate with individuals across different beliefs and backgrounds.*



Chaplain Jimmy Kirkpatrick



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

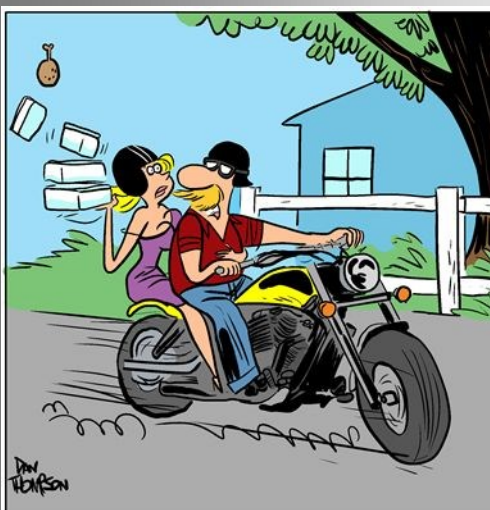
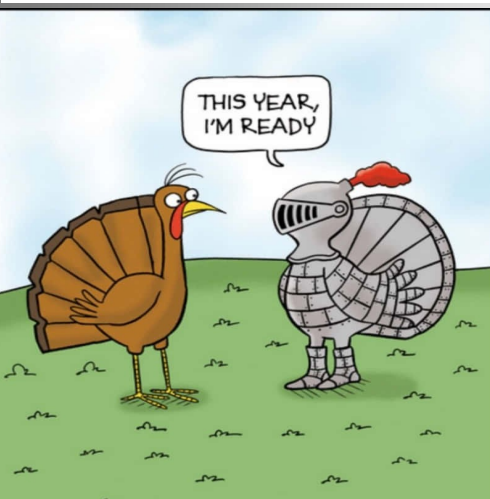


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"Go get my hair dryer, dear, We have to thaw out your dad...again."



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



SANTA CLAUS

CHRISTMAS

TREE

REINDEER

ELF

JOLLY

NORTH POLE

GIFTS

ORNAMENT

SLEIGH

CANDY CANE

STOCKINGS

"THE DOWN SIDE TO BEING A BIKER ON
THANKSGIVING IS TAKING HOME THE
LEFTOVERS."



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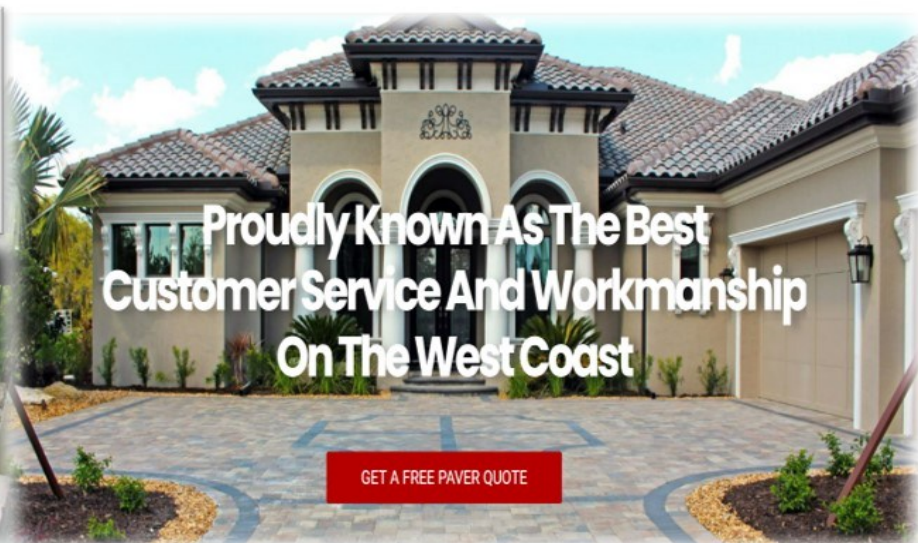
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