



Blue Knights Wisconsin VI

March 2012 Chapter Newsletter

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From Your Chapter Secretary

A belated Happy St. Patrick's Day wish to all you lads and lasses. I hope your celebrations included wearing the green and not feeling the green the next morning.

As you read this month's newsletter, several of our chapter members will be preparing to venture to Niagara Falls, NY, for the 2012 Spring GLRC. The weekend promises to be a great time in a very picturesque area. As the conference vice chairman, I can tell you that there is not a lot of business currently on the agenda for Saturday morning, which is a relief for anyone attending the business meeting. This is an election year for the GLRC board, and both Joe Kubicek (GLRC Treasurer) and I will be running for conference officer positions. I'll give you all the complete run down of the weekend in the next issue of the newsletter.

Kudos this month goes to Road Captain Bob "Carpe Diem" Barr. Bob kicked off the 2012 chapter rides with a trip to the Boneyard Grill in Sussex on March 11, taking advantage of the warm, sunny day. Bob led five bikes on a circuitous route, and met an additional four "cagers" at the restaurant. Meanwhile, I took the opportunity to oversleep and miss the ride. In my defense I did get both of my bikes up and running, and Laura and I did our own brunch ride, so the day wasn't a total waste. Anyway, Joe/Doni Kubicek, Kevin Kubicek, Jim "Bags", Big Steve, Chuck Homa, Scott Wysocki, Kevin Porter/Kris and Bob enjoyed a spectacular day for riding. Bob reported "a good time was had by all and there was no fighting over the bill."

I'm forced to close this month's newsletter on a sad note. The members of WI VI give their deepest condolences to Jim Crouse and his family on the recent passing of his father. I was also informed that Johnny Long, a member of IL I (Peoria) and our International Web Master lost his long battle with cancer on March 21. "Spider" was a mere 39 years old, and leaves behind a wife and two children. For those who aren't familiar with him, he was the son of John Long, our GLRC Secretary/Treasurer, who also succumbed to cancer 5 years ago. All will be deeply missed.

"Wrongway" Dennis

Minutes of the March 20 Chapter Meeting

- 1) The meeting was called to order by President Kindt at 7:05 PM on Tuesday, March 20, 2012.
- 2) President Kindt led the chapter membership in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and called for a moment of silence for our brother Blue Knights in need.
- 3) **Introduction of new members/special guests.** Secretary Hafeman introduced Mark and Christine Koch (both retired MPD). Both were welcomed as new members of the chapter.
- 4) **Reading of the minutes of the last meeting (02/21/12).** A motion to waive the reading of the minutes was made by Chuck Homa and seconded by Jim Crouse. The motion passed.
- 5) **Treasurer's report.** Treasurer Bortmess read his monthly financial report (the contents of which will not be published in this forum). There was no discussion regarding the report. A motion to accept the report as published was made by Jim Crouse and seconded by Mike Zivicki. The motion passed.
- 6) **Quartermaster's report.** Quartermaster Bagurdes stated that he had nothing new to report. He assured the membership that he would be contacting Will's the next day. He further stated that booze for the dance's booze raffle is coming in. President Kindt asked if we will be selling our chapter challenge coins at the dance. Joe Kubicek pointed out that our chapter sales permit allows us to sell the coins to Blue Knights and the public. Secretary Hafeman stated that he also has a quantity of coins and will bring them to the GLRC in NY.
- 7) **Old business.**
 - A) **2012 Dance.** Co-Chairpersons Santoro and Fisher-Waliszewski were both present. Kim Fisher stated that she has sent out 200 donation letters, soliciting donations from Door County and Sturgeon Bay. She has received a number of gift cards, but no big items. She has had 40 responses to her letters. Sandy Santoro stated that she has admission tickets, flyers, and donation letters and could e-mail the flyers and letters on request. President Kindt asked all members who've sold tickets to bring the money to the April meeting. Sandy Santoro stated that she has posted the dance info on Facebook. Kim Fisher is looking for baskets for the prizes. Joe Kubicek asked when we would be able to get into the hall to decorate, and Kim Fisher stated that she'd check on the time as well as food/beer arrangements. Bob Barr asked how many tickets had been pre-sold, and was informed 10. A recommendation was made to post flyers at local motorcycle dealerships.
 - B) **2013 Spring GLRC.** Joe Kubicek made a report about the status of the hotel. He informed the membership that there were possible issues with the Wyndham Hotel. The hotel is currently in receivership, and may be going into a sheriff's auction by May of this year. Mia Nardi of the Visit Milwaukee Bureau assured him that this is not a big deal, as sales of properties do occur. There was concern that the property could be closed for renovation or possibly razed. During a meeting with the hotel President Kindt asked for an surety bond of \$5,000, meaning if the hotel closed after the contract was signed the chapter would receive this money. There has been no response from the hotel yet, and the contract has not been signed.

Joe Kubicek further explained that a meeting was recently held with the Double Tree Hotel (6th/Wisconsin). This hotel was the runner up during the bidding process. The voting members of the GLRC opted to go to the Wyndham, mostly because the room rate was \$6.00 cheaper and parking was free (as opposed to \$10 per night). The Double Tree was asked to improve their deal, and they responded by saying the room rate (\$89 per night) was the best they could do, and offered to have 40 people park free. Joe also contacted the Radisson Hotel on W. North/N. Mayfair Rd (the

third place hotel). He has not received a call back from their sales manager, but he did receive an e-mail from her expressing interest in revisiting their offer. The Radisson also has a free parking structure, but according to Jim Bagurdes Wauwatosa PD frequently responds to this location for problems. The Ambassador Hotel (N. 23/W. Wisconsin) was suggested, but the hotel is considered a boutique hotel is rates are expensive. Joe explained that a lead was sent out by Visit Milwaukee to all area hotels, and only seven responded back. Chuck Homa asked who votes on this matter, and was informed that the voting members of the GLRC do. President Kindt stated that if the issues were serious, the city or state would have stepped in and taken action by now. Joe Kubicek concluded his report by stating that nothing has been signed with the Wyndham yet.

- C) **2012 Secondary Charity Committee.** Secretary Hafeman stated that all five donation checks had been sent out, and to date he has received thank you letters from Blue Knights COPSRUN, Shop with Cops, and Fisher House of Wisconsin. He further stated that the information on the chapter's donations was sent to the International Secretary, and will appear in his March report to the BOD.

There was no further old business discussed.

8) **New business.**

- A) **International/GLRC updates.** Secretary Hafeman stated that the biggest issue being discussed during the March 24th Board of Directors meeting was the issue of outsourcing the International elections and going to an electronic balloting process. He explained that Pony Moore of the UK & I Conference and chairman of the committee exploring this is recommending a company based in NY. This company has handled many electronic elections, including the French government. The last International election was estimated as costing the club \$40,000; Moore states that this new balloting system would cost \$5,000. Secretary Hafeman stated that he was unsure if the \$40,000 bill included the cost of the Inaugural Weekend, which is no longer being done as this now takes place during the International Convention. Joe Kubicek stated he read that paper ballots could still be requested by anyone not electronically voting, but the company would charge \$4.00 per returned ballot. Secretary Hafeman stated that he sent out an e-mail asking for the chapter's opinion on this matter, and of those who responded (given the information available) all but one person was against this idea. He stated that this information was given to the Wisconsin State Rep, who will report it to the GLRC Rep for his vote.
- B) Paul Serdyski informed the membership about the Deerfield Shooting Range. He stated that Scott Whiting of WI II owns the range, and will certify retired law enforcement officers for concealed carry for the cost of \$30 per weapon. This certification is HR 218 compliant. The range also has a FATS machine, and Whiting also instructs defensive tactics at the range. The range is located at 43 North Main Street (Deerfield), phone #608-764-2040.
- C) Jim Crouse informed the membership about a fundraiser for Officer Robert Garcia (MPD District 5). Officer Garcia injured his back during the execution of a search warrant, and was seeking a duty disability which the city denied him. The department offered a limited duty position, but Officer Garcia's doctor is arguing against this. Officer Garcia's wife is unemployed and they currently do not have insurance; he is also off the payroll and relying on comp time donations. The fundraiser is being held on Wednesday, March 28th at O'Brien's Call Box on N. 49/W. Vliet Sts. from 7:00 PM-close. Cost is \$15 advance ticket; \$20 at the door. Jim Crouse also asked for a \$500.00 donation from the Assist an Officers Fund. The matter was voted on, and the donation was unanimously approved.
- D) Danny O'Toole stated that Paul Lentz' father recently passed away. Paul is a former MPD and current Menomonee Falls officer. His father was 88, and a career firefighter.
- E) Chuck Homa stated that at the wake for Jim Crouse's father he and Bob Barr discussed the idea of a dress uniform for chapter members. Several ideas were

discussed, such as a dress shirt and dark pants. After much discussion Joe Kubicek suggested appointing some members to explore the suggestion. Chuck Homa, Jim Bagurdes, and Jim Crouse all volunteered to do this.

- F) President Kindt was congratulated on his retirement from the Waukesha Sheriff's Department, and received a round of applause.

There was no additional new business discussed.

9) **Announcements/Good of the Order.**

- A) Mike Stroessner informed the membership about a bike blessing being hosted by WI II (Watertown) on Saturday, April 14. Anyone interested in attending the event can meet at Wisconsin Harley-Davidson in Oconomowoc at 9:30 AM. Mike Zivicki suggested bringing dance tickets along and selling them.

Mike also spoke about the Nation of Patriots event at Wisconsin HD on May 26. The event features a flag being raised and immediately lowered; this flag is then escorted by various riders through the lower 48 states and arrives back in Oconomowoc on Sept. 1.

- B) Jim Crouse thanked all the members of WI VI who supported him and his family at his father's funeral.

- C) Secretary Hafeman spoke about the upcoming Spring MWRC, being held in Winona, MN from June 8-10, 2012. He stated that the event is roughly a four hour ride from Milwaukee; President Kindt and Joe Kubicek both encouraged members to attend. Secretary Hafeman stated he would send out registration forms in upcoming newsletters.

- D) Secretary Hafeman spoke about the upcoming Wisconsin State Convention, being held in Green Bay from June 15-17, 2012. The event will be held at the Brown County Fairgrounds with camping available, and the host chapter (WI X) has blocked rooms at two local hotels. Secretary Hafeman stated that the hotel info was sent out via e-mail, and he will also send out registration forms in upcoming newsletters.

- E) Bob Barr pointed out that the date of the fundraiser for Officer Garcia falls on a scheduled dinner ride date. After a brief discussion it was decided that a circuitous route would be taken by the chapter to the fundraiser in lieu of a dinner ride.

There were no further announcements made or information discussed.

10) **Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 7:00 PM at Alioto's.**

- 11) The 50/50 drawing was held, with \$55 being won by Brian Bortmess and \$55 going to the chapter treasury.

- 12) A motion to close the meeting was made by many and seconded by just as many (I was unable to pin down who motioned what). The meeting was officially closed by President Kindt at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis H. Hafeman
Secretary, Blue Knights WI VI

Wis. State Convention 2012-Green Bay
RETURN TO TITLETOWN - PARTY ON THE FOX
June 15-17

Hosted by WIS. X At the Brown County Fairgrounds 1500 Ft. Howard Ave. on the shores of the Fox River in DePere, WI.

FRIDAY NITE - ALL YOU CAN EAT TACO BAR

SATURDAY MORNING - EGGS, BACON, PANCAKES COFFEE AND JUICE

SATURDAY EVENING – GRILL YOUR OWN TENDERLOIN STEAKS

SUNDAY MORNING – COFFEE, JUICE AND ROLLS

FREE BEER AND SODA (BRING YOUR OWN BOOZE) – ALL WEEKEND, ALSO FEATURING WIS. X'S FAMOUS "APPLE PIE" WITH ENTERTAINMENT SATURDAY NITE.

SATURDAY ACTIVITIES: GROUP RIDE FROM THE FAIRGROUNDS TO DOC'S HARLEY DAVIDSON HOME OF THE TIMELINE BARBQ AND SALOON, ZOO AND MUSEUM. ALSO YOU MAY WISH TO VISIT THE CASINO OR LAMBEAU FIELD. CAMPING ON SITE - \$20.00 PER NITE, \$25.00 WITH ELECTRICITY & WATER. SEVERAL HOTELS WITHIN 2 -3 MILES.

Pre-Registration \$50.00 per person – After May 1 2012 - \$55.00 per person

Name _____ chapter _____

Address _____ phone _____

Guest (s) _____

Camping Yes _____ No _____ No Electricity _____ Electricity _____ # of Nites _____

Total Registration submitted \$ _____

For Camping information call 920-448-4075 Camping reservations must be in by May 1, 2011

Mail checks or money orders to: BK WIS X

Randy Lind

2110 Kassner Dr. Green Bay, WI 54304

For ? Or information – danenelsen@msn.com

Aloft Hotel - 920-884-0800 465 Pilgrim Way, Green Bay, Wis. room rate \$70+tax per night.

We have 12 rooms blocked until Memorial Day.

This is a very nice hotel, with a bar and is located 1.5 miles from the convention site, straight down Broadway/Ft. Howard Av. Normal rates run \$99-129 per night.

Baymont Inn - 920-494-7887 2540 S. Oneida St. Green Bay, Wis. room rate is \$49+tax per night. We have 10 rooms blocked until May 15.

This hotel is located on S. Oneida near the Hwy 41 overpass and is about 3-4 miles from the convention site.

Both hotels have king and double queen rooms available. When making reservations, the rooms are blocked under "Blue Knights Wisconsin."