

Blue Knights®

Great Lakes Regional Conference Newsletter

Chairman
Bill Drees
WI XVIII

BillDrees@BlueKnights.org

Vice Chairman
Bill Haylett
NY V

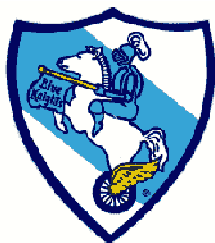
Bill6111@roadrunner.com

Secretary/Treasurer
Dennis Hafeman
WI VI

bkwrongway1@aol.com

GLRC Intl. Representative
John Gordon
OH XVIII

BKOH18JPTG24@aol.com



Illinois State Rep

Gayle Murnane-IL XIX
bkbsil9@comcast.net

Indiana State Rep

Glen Wheat-IN XIII
Indiana.blue.knights@gmail.com

Michigan State Rep

Mike Scarborough-MI II
bones1@tds.net

Ohio State Rep

Rich Labis-OH II
drumincop@centurvtel.net

Ontario/NY V Rep

GLRC Web Master
Paul Croteau-ONT VI
pcroteau@rogers.com

Wisconsin State Rep

Dane Nelsen-WI X
danenelsen@msn.com

Conference Reporter

Nancy Erickson-OH XII
mrsomeric@bigfoot.com

GLRC Safety Officer

Thurlow Tee Haskell-IL IX
glrcsafety@comcast.net

GLRC Chaplain

Rev Richard Bartley-OH XII
richbartley@roadrunner.com

From Your Secretary/Treasurer
September 2009

If it's raining, I must be in Xenia! I was last at the Greene County Fairground in 2001 for the Summer GLRC, and as I recall it rained then too. But the rainy weather couldn't dampen the good times had at the 2009 Summer GLRC, hosted by OH III. Chapter President Don Winters and the hard working membership put on a fine event. You just gotta love having a pig roast with three different types of pork served (with all the trimmings of course). It was great to see some new faces in the crowd, as well as improved attendance. I want to thank the membership of OH III for stepping up at the last minute and offering to host this convention.

The Saturday morning business meeting went relatively smoothly. You can read all about it in the minutes from the meeting later on in this newsletter. Several issues were resolved quickly, and all should benefit the conference and *you*, the membership. One thing that's most noticeable will be the new electronic newsletter. No longer will the conference be putting out a paper newsletter. You can find out the details on how this works and why we went to this new format on my "random thoughts" page. The new format should improve communication, and will allow more members access to the GLRC newsletter.

I want to take a moment to thank Past International President Connie Flanagan, WI VI "First Lady" Patti Kindt, Judy Haylett, Lois Gordon, and the host of other ladies (sorry, I didn't get your names) for their assistance at the business meeting. I couldn't have done it without you; muchas gracias.

Sadly, this GLRC saw Indiana State Rep Rita Hornbrook and Ohio State Rep Rich Dolbow stepping down from their offices. With work and personal demands putting too many constraints on their time they both decided to give up their offices. You'll both be missed! On that note, I want to offer hearty congratulations to our new Indiana State Rep Glen Wheat (IN XIII) and Ohio State Rep Rich Labis (OH II). Welcome aboard gentlemen.

I was advised by BOG Chairman Bob Seelye that ILL XI member Jim Foley crashed on his way home from this event. While I don't have all the fine details, I'm told that Jim sustained a shoulder injury, and should be up and running in no time. We all wish you a speedy recovery Jim.

Ride with Pride,
"Wrongway" Dennis Hafeman
GLRC Secretary/Treasurer



*Random thoughts and deep musings
from the Mind of Wrongway*

Well, as you may have noticed, there's been a change in the format of the GLRC newsletter, and I hope that you'll find it a change for the better. As of September, the GLRC newsletter will no longer be sent out as a paper newsletter; it'll be a totally electronic affair! Before I get into the mechanics of how this'll be working, let me give you all a bit of background. Since taking over as your secretary/treasurer, I've been looking for ways to save the conference money, which is to say *your* money. The biggest expense to our conference is this newsletter. For example, from August 2008 to August 2009 the conference has spent over \$1,600 just to put out a monthly newsletter. A fair chunk of change, but you also have to consider that the newsletter is sent to only **107** people out of a conference of over 2,600! That's a lot of money to put out a newsletter that only a few people get. Now, factor in that many of these people don't share the info in the newsletter at the chapter level (hell, my chapter president didn't even know the GLRC *had* a newsletter). That makes it even more ridiculous. So, I proposed to do away with the paper newsletter and instead go to an electronic format at the summer GLRC in Xenia. The membership unanimously voted to go ahead and enact this change with a caveat. The newsletter will be published **no later than the 10th of the month**. This means that if you have an article or flyer you wish me to publish you must get it to me well before this deadline. On the flip side of this, if you don't get a flyer to me in time to get into the newsletter I'll send it to Paul Croteau for publication on the GLRC web site. The front page of the newsletter will no longer have the GLRC board's home addresses and phone numbers listed; this is an added security measure for the board members.

Now for how this new format will work, and what *you*, the soon to be faithful reader, must do. As stated above, I'll write and publish the newsletter by the 10th of the month. Once completed, the newsletter will be e-mailed to the entire GLRC board, all state reps, and a select number of subscribers who already receive an electronic newsletter from me. Paul Croteau will put the newsletter on the web site, and each of our six state reps will be responsible for forwarding the newsletter to each chapter and member at large in their respective state. Once the chapter representative gets it, it'll be up to him or her to forward it to their chapter membership and/or publish the newsletter on their web site. When the member receives it, they can read it, delete it, or print it up for bird cage lining. This way, each and every member of the GLRC will be able to receive the conference newsletter. Sounds simple, right? Well, there is one small catch to this, and it requires your assistance. In order for this to work, each chapter **MUST** maintain a current e-mail address with their state rep, and each chapter member **MUST** keep their chapter informed

of their current e-mail address. If there's any change in an e-mail address, you have to make sure that the next person up the ladder knows, or you'll be missing out on getting your newsletter.

Lack of communication is one of the biggest complaints I hear from members when I attend conventions, and I firmly believe that by bringing the GLRC newsletter into the 21st century we'll improve communication within our conference. Besides saving a ton of money (and a lot of man hours on my end) this new format will give every member of the GLRC a chance to read what's going on in the conference. This also requires chapters to keep in contact with their state reps (and vice versa). The new format will allow me to publish newsletters that won't be limited to a set number of pages, so I'll be able to put out more info without worrying about the cost of postage or rupturing the postman. And did I fail to mention that this is *your* newsletter? This means that you all have an opportunity to contribute. Take the time to share road stories or articles about our conference with your brother and sister Knights. I welcome your contributions, so don't be shy; fire up the keyboard and send me your articles! Please keep me informed about sick/injured members, and if anyone should transfer to Heaven I, so I can share this info with our membership. I do ask for a little patience while I get this new format up and running, as this will require me to hone my computer skills.

Well, that's the skinny on the "new" newsletter. I think that you'll find it more accessible and informative than its predecessor, so *Read with Pride* (sorry, I couldn't resist).

"Wrongway" Dennis



In Memoriam

Dennis Wagner-ILL XI

**GET
WELL!**

Colette DeFalco-ILL XIX

Jim Foley-ILL XI

Bill Drees-WI XVIII

John Karlovich-WI VI

2009 SUMMER GLRC MINUTES

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Bill Haylett at 9:42 AM on Saturday, August 29, 2009.
- 2) A moment of silence was observed for the Members of Heaven I. This was followed by an opening invocation by GLRC Chaplain Rich Bartley.
- 3) Dan Fueston of OH III was introduced as the Sergeant at Arms for the meeting. Vice Chairman Haylett informed the membership that Chairman Bill Drees was having medical issues and could not attend this meeting.
- 4) Last words from the host chapter: OH III President Don Winters wanted everyone to enjoy themselves and spend money at the raffle tables and with the vendors. He stated that the pig roast would be phenomenal, and that his chapter has been cooking them since 3:30 AM.
- 5) Roll call:

GLRC Executive Board members

Chairman Bill Drees-absent (excused)
Vice Chairman Bill Haylett-present
Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Hafeman-present
GLRC International Rep John Gordon-present

GLRC State Reps

Illinois State Rep Gayle Murnane-present
Indiana State Rep Rita Hornbrook-present
Michigan State Rep Mike Scarborough-present
Ohio State Rep Rich Dolbow-present
Ontario/NY V State Rep/GLRC Webmaster Paul Croteau-present

GLRC Conference Reporter Nancy Erickson-present
GLRC Safety Officer Thurlow Haskell-not present (excused)
GLRC Chaplain Rich Bartley-present

PAID GLRC CHAPTER REPRESENTED

From Illinois: V, VII, IX, XI, and XIX
From Indiana: I, III, VII and XIII
From Michigan: II, VI and XI
NY V
From Ohio: II, III, V, XI, XII, XVI, XVII, XVIII, and XXV
From Ontario: IV, VI and XIV
From Wisconsin: II, V, VI, X, XI and XIII

- 6) Introduction of International Officers and guests:

International Secretary Peter Domiziano
Past International President Connie Flanagan
Past International President Mike Ripsch
BOG Treasurer Mike Rickard
International Safety Officer Clint Cagle
Past International Vice President Jerry Bryan

- 7) Minutes from the 2009 Spring GLRC meeting: A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the minutes and accept them as published. MOTION PASSED.
- 8) Secretary/Treasurer's report: A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as published. MOTION PASSED. (NOTE: a copy of the report was included with the 2009 Spring GLRC minutes. Final numbers will not be published in this forum-contact the treasurer for this information)
- 9) Vice Chairman's report: As of August 26 the Tri-State Conference has 2,997 members in 62 chapters. In second is the Mason-Dixon Conference with 2,742 members in 70 chapters. The GLRC is currently in third with 2,658 members in 88 chapters. The total membership for the Blue Knights is 19,562 members in 614 chapters. A chapter is close to being chartered in Madison Wisconsin, and two new chapters are being worked on in Indiana by Glen Wheat. Bill Haylett received five forms for the Traveling Recruitment Award (out of 88). WI XVIII had 20, ILL VI had 18, ILL XXII had 15, ILL IV had 16, and the 2008 winner was ILL I with 24 new members.

Bill explained that the Traveling Recruitment award plaque was now filled, and he requested a motion to send this plaque to the International Headquarters to have mounted on the wall. A motion was made and seconded to do this. MOTION PASSED.

Discussion took place on whether or not to make a new plaque. A motion was made and seconded to have a virtual plaque made on the GLRC web site and to have the GLRC secretary maintain a ledger of the winners. MOTION PASSED.

- 10) International Rep's report: Welcome to the Great Lakes Conference and to my home state, Ohio. While you are in the area, I encourage you to visit some of the locations that make this area famous. The United States Air Force Museum is not far from here, and they have hundreds of aircraft and memorabilia on display. The airplane that was called Air Force One and carried President John F. Kennedy to Dallas in 1963 has been retired to this museum and is open to the public. I want to thank my friends of Ohio III for putting on such a great week-end. It is wonderful to be back in Xenia for yet another Great Lakes Regional Conference Meeting. This chapter always puts on a good show even here in tornado alley. I

still remember the terrible rain storm we had at the last GLRC here at the Greene County Fairgrounds, but I also remember the fun and friendship we had.

Since our last meeting at Johnson Creek, WI, I have been very active representing this conference and the Blue Knights. One of the major events I attended was the "CopsRide" in Cleveland, Ohio. Great Lakes Chaplin Rich Bartley was one of the organizers for this spectacular ride. Imagine 950+ motorcycles in a police escorted parade going through nine cities, covering 50+ miles, and no incidents or stops. Following the ride, we all met at a Harley Davidson dealer who was more than prepared to feed this large crowd. This group of generous bikers donated almost \$20,000 for the Concerns of Police Survivors of Ohio. I congratulate "Chappy" for showing the Cleveland area that the Blue Knights are the good guys.

Lois and I also attended the International Convention in Louisville. The attendance could have been better, but those that did attend were welcomed by the friendly faces of Kentucky II. This chapter did a wonderful job, especially considering that they had to plan for this convention twice. As you will remember, they won the bid and then the host hotel closed its doors. The chapter then had to go out and find another location and make new plans on very short notice. This convention also became personally memorable for me, as Lois decided to get back on the bike. This was the first time she has been on a motorcycle since our son was taken from us as he rode his bike.

A bill has been introduced into the Ohio House of Representatives, which would ban texting while operating a motor vehicle. An Ohio lawmaker has suggested the bill be named after my son as he was killed by a texting driver. Those of us in law enforcement know that such a law could save lives as long as the politicians don't water it down. Our family is deeply honored that his name is being considered whether it is adopted or not. Because my Blue Knight son had touched the lives of so many people in his short 35 years, we want to keep his memory alive. As a result, I have also been working on organizing the "John T. Gordon Memorial Eagle Scout Scholarship." We will need to raise \$5,000 to get this program off the ground. In the spring of 2011, a yearly scholarship will go to a young man who has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. My Blue Knight chapter will be involved in achieving this goal. A raffle and a poker run will be conducted in the near future, so save your pennies, as I will be asking for your support.

Now back to GLRC business. As of July 15, 2009, the GLRC had 2,596 members in 87 chapters. We have fallen to third place for the first time in many years. The Tri-State Conference leads in membership with 2,839 members in 60 chapters and is followed by the Mason Dixon Conference which has 2,661 members in 69 chapters. Total membership as of July 15, was 19,059 members in 606 chapters.

International Vice-President Pat Fox is in charge of the "Continuous Years of Service Awards" program. This program, which started this year, awards ALL

members who have 20, 25, 30 & 35 years of continuous service in this organization. Chapters should forward the information of those who qualify to Pat. They will be issued a pin and certificate. I have seen one of the pins, and they are very nice looking.

A couple of months ago, I reported on two law enforcement officers who were stopped on their motorcycles at 149 MPH, while they traveled on an Interstate highway close to Columbus, Ohio. One of the officers was an Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper, and the other was a Gahanna Police Officer. Both officers received a \$150 fine and a six month license suspension. The Trooper was on the elite motorcycle unit and was suspended from that duty. In addition, he received an unpaid suspension for five days. The Gahanna officer was fired from his job. The State Trooper who made the traffic stop was also suspended for turning off his video microphone after learning that these two offenders were law enforcement officers. This is a different world nowadays. I can remember being able to badge your way out of such tickets. Now, on-duty or off-duty, we still have to set an example. This is why I think the Blue Knights are a step above all other law enforcement motorcycle clubs. We normally set the standard for police motorcycle clubs. On a side note, these two officers were not Blue Knights.

I encourage you to visit our web-site and click on my link. Paul always keeps my section up-to-date. I forward the International Board Meeting Agenda to all board members and to the state reps. Paul will then post it in my section. Included in the agenda will be all the proposals that the International Board will hear at the next meeting. I welcome your input. I may not always vote in the way that you may want, but I consider all input before I vote. Are there any questions for me?

11) State Rep's reports:

Illinois State Rep Gayle Murnane reported that everything was wonderful in Illinois.

Indiana State Rep Rita Hornbrook reported that everything was great except for harassment from the GLRC chaplain.

Michigan State Rep Mike Scarborough reported that everything was fine.

Ohio State Rep Rich Dolbow reported that the Police Memorial Ride in Cleveland was a huge success. He thanked all the Blue Knights who came up for the ride. Rich also reported that the COPSRIDE was another success, and thanked John Gordon and Rich Bartley for their participation. He further stated that Rich Bartley does a wonderful job of representing our organization and wanted him to be recognized for this. He then thanked the board for rectifying an issue in Ohio that occurred after the 2009 Spring GLRC. He explained that this was an issue over poor communications and involved honorary members. Rich then stated that due to various issues at home and at work he would be stepping down as the Ohio State Rep., and that it was an honor to serve at the rep.

Ontario/NY V Rep Paul Croteau reported that he encountered a few difficulties with chapter renewal forms with Ontario IX. He attended their meetings and they had a change of secretary/treasurer on their executive board. For the moment, everything is fine with this chapter; they now have their membership cards for 2009. He learned that Ontario XVI (Durham) had not yet submitted their renewal forms due to a secretarial issue. The president of that chapter assured him this has been taken care of at this time.

Wisconsin State Rep Dane Nelsen reported that Wisconsin is still holding at 14 chapters. Recruitment continues in the far northwest Hayward area, but there are just not enough members to form a chapter at this time. Discussions have been held with several people in the area about becoming members-at-large.

Wisconsin XVIII's "5=0" program continues to be successful. Wisconsin State Safety Officer Clint Cagle will be stepping down this year due to his appointment as International Safety Officer, and they are currently looking into a replacement for him. The Madison area continues recruiting and a meeting is scheduled for 9-12-09 to determine if there are enough potential members to charter and to elect what would be their chapter officers.

Most of the charity rides are completed and for most chapters things will begin to slow down a bit. This year WI X organized the motorcycle portion of the Law Enforcement Torch Run to Stevens Point for the Special Olympics State Games, assisted with WI X member Jerry Parins' Cruise for Cancer, the Etter-Markins Memorial Ride, and with the Family Violence Center put on the Freedom Ride. These rides represent approximately \$100,000 in charitable efforts again this year, with a total of \$600,000 raised for charity since 2000. In addition members also assisted with traffic control and escorts for Green Bay's HOG MDA Ride and The Vet's Ride. They now turn their full attention to the 2010 Spring GLRC to be held in Green Bay, WI April 30 to May 2.

GLRC Conference Reporter Nancy Erickson reported that everything was fine, and that she was in charge of reprimanding the GLRC chaplain.

GLRC Chaplain Rich Bartley thanked everyone for the accolades bestowed on him. He pointed out that the membership is aging and more members are passing away. He asked that anyone with a chaplain in their chapter or state please contact him with this person's information. He is currently working on establishing a network of chaplains.

- 12) Chairman's report: Vice Chairman Bill Haylett informed the membership that due to Bill Drees' medical condition there will be no chairman's report given. He asked that all members keep Bill in their thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery. He reported that Bill Drees would appreciate any cards and checks. Bill Drees' doctor says that the heart valve replacement is an easy procedure, and that his recovery should be about 4-6 months.

13) International officers wishing to address the membership:

International Secretary Peter Domiziano stated that this was his first GLRC, and was happy to be here. He stated Florida is becoming crowded with past International presidents, and his guest room is booked. He thanked everyone for their support during his election, and stated that if anyone needs information please contact him.

BOG Secretary Mike Rickard stated that he is proud the BOG and what he does for them. He spoke about the Special Fund, stating that the fund stands at \$178,712.55 as of the end of July. There have been four payouts this year, with one pending. 122 chapters have paid into the fund this year, in addition to four personal donations; one of which was from Jim and Ruth Burgess for \$500. Two conferences have contributed: the West Coast Conference and the South West Conference.

Mike presented the BOG Meritorious Service Award to Rich Dolbow and Vincent Trusso of OH XVI. The award had been given at the 2009 International Convention, but both members had not been present. The incident that generated the award was for stopping a drunk driver who was driving the wrong way on the interstate.

International Safety Officer Clint Cagle asked the membership for support on his proposal regarding membership in a national motorcycle safety organization. He stated that Ohio has a Ride Smart program, which is similar to the 5=0 Program in Wisconsin. He stated he would be available after the meeting to discuss his proposal.

14) Old business:

A) 2010 Spring GLRC update. GLRC Wisconsin State Rep Dane Nelsen gave an update on the convention. The event will be April 30 to May 2, 2010. The theme is "In the Shadow of Lambeau" and the host hotel will be the Best Western, which is approximately one block from Lambeau Field. Rates are \$83 for double occupancy, \$93 for three, and \$104 for four. There will be a Friday night tailgate party, and a Saturday night buffet featuring fish, chicken and beef. To control costs the host chapter is not offering breakfast; instead the hotel has a continental breakfast that can be upgraded to a full buffet breakfast for an additional \$6. The hotel features a pool and atrium, as well as shuttle service to Oneida Casino. Registration will be \$60, and forms are available on both the WI X and GLRC web sites. They will feature a 24 hour hospitality suite, and will have both smoking and non smoking rooms.

B) Date change for future spring GLRC conventions: Discussion took place regarding changing the date of future spring GLRC conventions, namely to move the spring conference back to early spring (late February/early March). A motion was made and seconded to move the spring GLRC back to March, with March 31 being the latest date for the convention. MOTION PASSED.

There was no further old business discussed.

15) New business:

A) Ohio State Rep Rich Dolbow and Indiana State Rep Rita Hornbrook were called to the front of the membership. Both state reps were stepping down from their respective offices. Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Hafeman read and presented plaques of appreciation to both members.

B) Rich Labis from OH II was appointed as the new Ohio State Rep. Glen Wheat from IN XIII was appointed as the new Indiana State Rep. Both members were called to the front of the membership by Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Hafeman and presented with their official state rep bottom rockers.

C) Bids for 2010 Summer GLRC. Ohio State Rep Rich Labis of OH II presented a bid. The event would be August 27-29, 2010, and would be at the Perrysburg Holiday Inn. Registration will be \$75, with room rates of \$82. There will be camping available, but Rich believe that the rates were \$50 per night. There were no other bids made for the 2010 Summer GLRC; the convention was awarded to OH II.

D) There were no bids made for the 2011 Spring GLRC. TABLED UNTIL THE 2010 SPRING GLRC BUSINESS MEETING.

E) GLRC newsletter format: Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Hafeman explained to the membership a proposal to do away with the paper GLRC newsletter and go to an entirely electronic newsletter. He cited the cost factor to the conference as well as the added accessibility to all members. The newsletter would be sent out to the GLRC board and all state reps as well as posted on the GLRC web site no later than the 10th of each month. State reps would then forward the newsletter to their respective state chapters, who would then forward the newsletter to their members. A motion was made and seconded to have the GLRC newsletter published electronically. MOTION PASSED.

F) GLRC Ontario/NY V Rep Paul Croteau presented a revamped GLRC patch. The patch was an existing design redone by OH III, who went through a local vendor to remake this patch. Paul proposed that the GLRC purchase the template and the patches and offer them for sale to members at GLRC conventions. Sales would be handled by the GLRC secretary/treasurer. After further discussion a motion was made and seconded to have the GLRC order more of these patches, and charge no more than \$2 over cost to sell them; the GLRC secretary/treasurer would be responsible for this. MOTION PASSED.

G) GLRC Indiana State Rep Glen Wheat pointed out that there are only 82 members currently on the GLRC Yahoo group. He pointed out that more members should be joining this group.

H) GLRC International Rep John Gordon presented a sticker developed by GLRC Chaplain Rich Bartley. The sticker is similar to one used by the Christian Motorcycle Club at bike blessings; the sticker features their club logo. The stickers John presented would feature the BK logo and would be used at bike blessings performed by GLRC chaplains. John explained that we could purchase these stickers and bill the International for them; the cost could be covered under recruiting and retention expenses. A motion was made and seconded to purchase these stickers. MOTION CARRIED.

There was no further new business discussed.

16) Good of the order:

A) The 50/50 drawing was held, with \$101.00 going to the winner and \$101.00 going to the conference.

B) The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis H. Hafeman
GLRC Secretary/Treasurer