

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
bkbsi19@comcast.net

Indiana State Rep

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

Michigan State Rep

Mike Scarborough-MI II
bones1@tds.net

Ohio State Rep

Rich Labis-OH II
drumincop@centurytel.net

Ontario/NY V Rep

GLRC Web Master
Paul Croteau-ON VI
pdroteau@rogers.com

Wisconsin State Rep

Dane Nelsen-WI X
danenelsen@msn.com

Conference Reporter

Nancy Erickson-OH XII
mrsmomeri@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 February 2010

INCREASE YOUR SIZE WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES! No I'm not touting the miracle of Viagra or the latest Swedish pump; I'm talking about the GLRC newsletter. This month's issue would have required a kidney on E-Bay to pay for postage, and would have probably ruptured all but the hardiest mailman delivering it to your home. But the new electronic format has allowed me to send you bigger and (hopefully) better newsletters without bankrupting the conference. And that's not even touching on the additional depth of distribution or more penetrating reporting you're experiencing. There's nothing I won't do to enhance your reading pleasure.

SIZE DOES MATTER! Of course I'm referring to our GLRC checking account. Interested in increasing its size naturally? Well, the preferred method is for you to send in your 2010 GLRC dues. Your meager \$20 helps keep this great conference performing at peak efficiency. Check out the chapters who've contributed so far:

Illinois: II, V, IX, X, XI, XV, XIX and XXII

Indiana: II, III, VIII (new chapter waived)

Michigan: III, VI, and X

NY V

Ohio: IV (new chapter waived), V, VI, X, XII, and XV

Ontario: IV, V, VIII, XI, XIII, XIV, and XV

Wisconsin: I (new chapter waived), II, III, IV, and VI

For some odd reason I've got a hankering for a cigarette and a cold shower, so I'm going to wrap this up for another month. Happy Valentine's Day!

"Wrongway" Dennis Hafeman
GLRC Secretary/Treasurer





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

I thought I was wrong once, but I was mistaken! It seems that I have to start off my column this month with some corrections to last month's newsletter. In my haste to meet my deadline I apparently didn't proofread my work, and WI VI Secretary Joe "Eagle Eye" Kubicek caught a couple of errors yours truly made. Well, at least I know *one person* is reading the newsletter, even if he's just looking for mistakes! With that said, here are my infractions: In my article about the Crying Towel Classic I inadvertently failed to list **my own chapter** in the attendees. It seems that I listed WI V twice and not WI VI. I attribute that error to a problem with the nut behind the keyboard. Secondly, in Bill's Chairman Comments Bill Drees says that he's "looking forward to the **2110** riding season." Well, in my defense Bill also said that after his surgery he'd feel "20 years younger," so maybe he's just being really optimistic about his longevity. Bill, I'm pulling for you on your long term goals! What some guys won't do to get the "Oldest Rider" award at the International.

Are we a gang? This misguided accusation has haunted our club for several years now, and it seems that the so called gang crime investigators won't let it go. Well, I received an e-mail from Michigan State Rep Mike Scarborough with the web site for the National Gang Center. This web site gives definitions of what constitutes a gang, gang member, and gang crimes for the federal government and for each of the 50 states. You can check this out at:

www.nationalgangcenter.gov/content/documents/definitions.pdf.

While I'm loathing saying this, it looks like the Feds at least have somewhat of a clue. Some states however... I know I've said this before, and I'll say it again; if you don't act like an outlaw you won't be treated (or classified) as one. Our local sheriff's department has a slogan: *Image is everything*. Food for thought.

IN III member Dick Lear is fighting a serious medical condition and needs your help. A fund has been set up to assist Dick and Diana with the medical bills. If you're interested in contributing, please send your donations to:

Dick Lear Fund
C/O Indiana 1

Blue Knights Indiana 1
P.O. Box 1962
Muncie, IN 47308

Gayle Murnane also sent me this one, of special interest to us retirees:

House Bill Amending the Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act Introduced

The FOP worked with Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA), a member of the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, to craft H.R. 3752, the "Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act Improvements Act."

The bill is very similar to S. 1132, introduced in the Senate by Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT), Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary earlier this year. Both pieces of legislation would improve the Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act (LEOSA), a Federal statute exempting qualified active and retired law enforcement officers from State and local prohibitions on the carriage of firearms.

The amendments proposed to LEOSA would resolve a persistent problem that qualified retired law enforcement officers have encountered in States which have failed to implement the LEOSA as intended by Congress. Under current law, qualified retired law enforcement officers must carry the photographic identification issued by the agency for which they were employed and documentation which certifies that they have met, within the most recent twelve month period, the active duty law enforcement standards for qualification for a firearm of the same type as the one they intend to carry. This document must be issued by the retired officer's former agency or from the State in which he resides. Currently, States which have not or have refused to adopt a procedure or mechanism for retired officers to qualify with their weapon are effectively preventing retired officers within their State from being able to carry their firearms legally as Congress intended.

In June 2004, during the mark-up of the legislation before the House Judiciary Committee, this point was specifically addressed in a colloquy between Representatives F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI), then the Chairman of the Committee and author of the amendment requiring the State or the agency to issue a document certifying that the officer had qualified, and then-Representative Ric Keller (R-FL). The exchange between these two Members made it clear that the amendment was not intended to be a means by which a State could "get around" the Federal law. Unfortunately, this is exactly its effect in many States.

To address this issue, both H.R. 3752 and S. 1132 would provide that any "certified firearms instructor" could conduct and qualify a retired officer using either the standards set by the State in which the instructor is certified and the officer resides, or in the absence of such standards (or

the recognition of such standards), using the standards of any law enforcement agency in the State. This will ensure that qualified retired law enforcement officers will no longer be prevented from carrying their firearms under LEOSA simply because they cannot comply with the paperwork requirements.

The House bill will also make sure that the Amtrak and Federal Reserve Police Departments are included in the definition of "qualified active and retired law enforcement officer." The officers employed by these agencies are considered Federal law enforcement officers, but because Amtrak and the Federal Reserve are public-private corporations overseen by the Federal government, these officers cannot be considered as an "employee of a governmental agency" as required by the statute. The language in H.R. 3752 will resolve this issue.

The bill would also clarify that any Federal law enforcement officer classified as a GS0083 or any successor to that series who is employed by the Executive Branch also be deemed to meet the definition of "qualified active or retired law enforcement officer" in the current statute. In addition, the bill would expand the definition of "qualified retired law enforcement officer" to include honorably discharged military personnel who served as a law enforcement officer or in a primarily law enforcement capacity for a branch of the United States Armed Services.

Finally, the bill would lower the aggregate years of service necessary to meet the definition of "qualified retired law enforcement officer" from fifteen (15) to ten (10) and remove confusing language related to that same definition.

At this writing, the bill has not been scheduled for consideration in the House Subcommittee, which is chaired by Representative Robert C. Scott (D-VA), an opponent of the original LEOSA. In the Senate, however, Chairman Leahy is still trying to schedule a vote on the bill in committee before the end of the year.

Kind of goes hand in hand with the outlaw biker alert. I admit it'd be nice to pack some heat when I'm out on the road "just in case." My former employer refuses to comply with this federal law, so I run the risk of a CCW charge if I "go heeled." If anyone has any updates on this, please get the info to me so I can keep you all informed.

Got a hot topic you'd like to see in the GLRC newsletter? Send me your suggestions, or better yet become a contributing writer today and submit your article. The deadline for submissions is **no later than** the 10th of the month. The same thing goes for flyers and registration forms. Get them to me as soon as possible, and I'll do everything I can to get the info out conference wide.

"Lost in America,"

“Wrongway” Dennis




2010 INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

If you're planning on attending the upcoming International Convention in Billings Montana (and I hope you are) here's a teaser from MT I President Dave Evans regarding some of the organized rides they're planning.

We'll be riding the Beartooth Pass and the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway each day, since it's the most popular route for everyone who comes here. One of those trips will also include a ride to Cody and the Buffalo Bill Museum. Another ride will go to the Chief Plenty Coups Museum and Little Bighorn Battlefield. A third ride will go into the Big Horn Mountains of northern Wyoming.

Now word around the campfire has it the host hotel block sold out in September of 2009. Rooms are still available (not in the BK room block) to the tune of \$189 per night! But don't despair; there are quite a few hotels in spitting distance of the host hotel with rooms available. But don't wait until the last minute to reserve your room; I'm sure they'll go fast. WCC Chairman Karl Hutchinson recommends checking the MT I web site for info on local hotels. Also, if you're planning on attending the combined WCC/SWC in Grand Junction Colorado, be advised that *their* host hotel block is also sold out! Karl is working on setting up another room block at a neighboring hotel. Check their conference web sites for updated info on these conventions.

PS: Please register early for this convention (and for **ALL** conventions you plan on attending). Having been a host to an International, a GLRC and a couple of Wisconsin State conventions I can tell you from experience that the host chapter really appreciates pre registrations (and that walk in registrations are a major pain in the kiester). Pre registrations help the host chapter figure out the amounts of food, refreshments, pins, etc that they need to put on a successful event. So please be a courteous guest and send in your registration forms early!!! Besides, your early registrations will save you a couple of bucks and in these tough economic times who doesn't want to save money?



Dick Lear – IN III

Mike Rickard – NY V

Glen Towler – ON VI



John Long – IL I
(Intl. Web Master)

Gayle Murnane – IL XIX
(Chairman-Intl. Honorary Committee)

Blue Knights Great Lakes Region
International Representative
January 2010



Dear Friends,

The New Year has arrived, and like a new snow fall, changes will be happening. New officers will be elected in chapters and in the conferences. With that, it will bring new responsibilities for the newly elected officers. Newly formed chapters will be trying to get their feet wet (so to speak) and learn what the Blue Knights are all about. We need to all work together to help the new officers and new chapters follow a long standing tradition of Blue Knights brotherhood and fraternalism. Like it or not, this is a 20,000+ family. As with all families, there are sometimes issues that need to be resolved. How we go about resolving these issues is the \$64,000 question.

When there are problems, we should work together as friends and not as some type of dictator, which could ultimately cause a divorce in our family. Remember, before any problem existed, we were friends who rode together; we were friends who shared the dinner table with each other; we were friends who fought together on the streets; we were friends that shared a drink with each other; we were friends who healed each other's wounds (both physically and emotionally); we were friends who watched each other's children grow up, from childhood onto marriage, and now we are friends watching new grandchildren as they continue to grow. I can remember when attending Blue Knights events, I would tell my son to have fun and not to get into trouble. I also told him that if any Blue Knight told him to do something or stop doing something, that it was the same as if I had told him. Why? Because Blue Knights are family, and I trusted my Blue Knights family to watch over my son, and that they did (although there was a time or two

when he and another Blue Knights' son snuck some beer at an event, remember Steven?)

I encourage each new officer to go to the Blue Knights International web page and enter the "Members Only" section. Inside, you will find a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws. Print it and learn it. Most problems can be resolved by abiding by the by-laws. All too often we are seeing chapters and members who try to side-step these by-laws, because "it doesn't say that we can't." It is not always the printed word that is important, but the spirit of the by-Laws. As police officers, most of us from one time or another have tried to side-step department rules. Sometimes it worked, and sometimes it didn't. The end result usually required a new written policy, which would usually tick someone off. As in our departments, the Blue Knights can't always make everybody happy. When one person, or chapter, tries to side-step the rules, then other members or chapters may become unhappy.

The January 2010 International Board Meeting was held on January 5, 2010; the highlights of that meeting follow:

Illinois State Rep. Gayle Murnane was appointed to be the chairperson of the International Honorary Committee by President Dave Mulford. This committee did a bang-up job providing the board with the information on each candidate which makes our decisions easier. The International Honoraries for 2010 are: Eric Estrada, and King Albert II and Queen Paola of Belgium.

The final 2009 membership statistics are in and the Blue Knights ended the year with 20,490 members, in 635 chapters, and 24 countries. The Great Lakes Conference ended in third place in the membership race with 2,756 members in 91 chapters. We followed the Tri-State Conference which has 2,995 members in 65 chapters, and the Mason-Dixon Conference which has 2,900 members in 73 chapters.

The Continuous Service Awards program is still up and running. This program recognizes members who have maintained their membership continuously within the Blue Knights for 20, 25, 30 or 35 years. If you qualify and would like to receive this free pin and certificate, please contact Vice-President Pat Fox at intlvp@BlueKnights.org. Please do not contact the International office with this information, but Pat directly. There have been questions about purchasing additional pins, and they are now available for \$10.00 each.

From our International President Dave Mulford:

"I want to remind all Blue Knights, new and old, that if they have questions and concerns to contact their chapter or conference officers, before you just pick up the phone and call the office. Our office staff is there to assist you but they are also very busy. We have many knowledgeable Blue Knights throughout the organization. Many times your new questions or concerns have been already been looked into or answered. Whether a Chapter, Conference or International officer these individuals may be able to answer the many questions or concerns that you

have. And if they do not have the answers to your questions they will know where to go or which way to look for an answer. These are the individuals that have stepped up to the various positions that they hold or have held and may be able to assist you.”

The next meeting will be on February 23, 2010. Deadline for agenda items will be February 9, 2010.

Riding With Pride,
John P. T. Gordon
Great Lakes Regional Conference
International Representative

Save A Life! Don't Text and Drive!
Every Mile I Ride is For My Son!

BLUE KNIGHTS ILLINOIS V

FEBURARY 27, 2010

**AMERICAN LEGION BOONE POST #77
900 W. CHRYSLER DR. - BELVIDERE,IL.**

**CHILI= SERVED AT 6:00 P.M.
BINGO STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.**

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, GIRLFRIENDS,
BOYFRIENDS, DAUGHTERS, SONS, MOTHERS,
FATHERS, OR ANYONE ELSE YOU WANT TO BRING**

COST IS :\$6.00

**ALL THE CHILI YOU WANT TO EAT
BEER, POP AND 1 BINGO CARD.**

**EXTRA CARDS ARE \$2.00 EACH
OR 3=\$5.00**

***** NOTE *****

**DO TO THIS BEING A LICENSED LIQUOR
ESTABLISHMENT AND THEY ARE LETTING US
USE THERE FACILITY *** "NO CARRY IN LIQUOR
WILL BE ALLOWED" *** THERE WILL BE A
CASH BAR FOR MIXED DRINKS
THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CO=OPERATION
ON THIS ISSUE.**



Blue Knights



17th Sweetheart Dance

Fundraiser

Saturday, February 13th, 2010

7:00 PM to 1:00 AM

All proceeds go to our
Assist an Officer Fund

Tanner-Paull Banquet Hall
6922 W. Orchard Street, West Allis, WI

Beer, Soda, Door Prizes, Raffles, 50/50 and Music!!
\$10.00 in advance or \$12.00 at the door



Sponsored by the Blue Knights Law
Enforcement Motorcycle Club, WI VI

For tickets contact:

Kim @ pictrmekim@aol.com



(414) 708-5948

Sandy @ santoro3@sbcglobal.net

(414) 430-2261