

Southwest Conference Meeting Minutes

(June 13, 2008 – Santa Fe, NM)

Meeting Called to order by Chairman Jack Kaylor: 0910

A moment of Silence observed for members of Heaven I, all Law Enforcement officers slain in the line of duty, along with those Blue Knights that are sick and distressed.

BLUE KNIGHT Pledge: Read by Ron Friend *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 motorcycling law enforcement community and the general public. The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights.*

Roll Call:

Chairman: Jack Kaylor

Vice Chairman East: Rick Parsons

Vice Chairman West: Guy O'Connor

Treasurer: Tom Slaughter

Secretary/Webmaster: Douglas Brown (not in attendance/Glenn Carpenter acting)

Safety Officer: Richard Bennett

Guest: Mike Ripsch – International President

Jerry Bryant - International Vice President

Karl Hutchins – Newly elected West Coast Conference Chairman

Housekeeping Welcoming Statement: Tom Meserve – Chapter President NM II

Mike Hughes - Chapter President NM VI

Jim Lara - Chapter President NM III

Secretary's Report: Reading of Minutes from last Annual Membership Meeting in Big Bear, CA June, 2008 by Acting Secretary Glenn Carpenter

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Tim Lambert

SECONDED BY: Russ Golesch

VOTE: All in favor: Unanimous Voice Vote All opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0.

Motion: **Passed**

Treasurer's Report: Tom Slaughter

Treasurer's Report Read by Tom Slaughter with an ending balance of \$6,527.76

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Larry Kunard

SECONDED BY: Jim Lambert

VOTE: All in favor: Unanimous Voice Vote All opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0.

Motion: **Passed**

Conference Safety Officer's Report: Richard Bennett

- A) Thanked the host chapters for the great effort put forth at the conference.
- B) Thanked everyone for attending his Safety Briefing the previous night
- C) Offered his services to any chapter needing assistance with their chapter safety program.

Conference Webmaster: Douglas Brown (Not in Attendance)

No Report Given

SWC Vice Chairman East Report: Rick Parsons

SWC Vice Chairman West Report: Guy O'Connor

SWC Chairman Report: Jack Kaylor

Chapter Roll Call: (Chapters Bolded and underlined – Presidents or Proxies presented)

Arizona I – No California II – No **Colorado I** – Yes **New Mexico I** – Yes
Arizona II – No **California IV** – Yes **Colorado II** – Yes **New Mexico II** – Yes
Arizona V – No **California VI** – Yes **Colorado III** - Yes **New Mexico III** - Yes
Arizona VI – Yes California X - No Colorado VI - No **New Mexico VI** - Yes

Arizona IX – Yes California XI - No Colorado VII - No New Mexico VII - No
California XIII - No Colorado IX - Yes New Mexico VIII - No
California XIV - No
California XVII – Yes Nevada I – No **Texas III** - Yes
California XX – No

SWC Elections: (Jack Kaylor) There were no candidates announced by the May 1st deadline other than the names of the current elected board members who would run again for their currently held positions. With this in mind I call for a vote of confidence from the seated chapter presidents that the current elected board be reelected to their respective positions:

Chairman/International Rep: Jack Kaylor
Vice Chairman East: Rick Parsons
Vice Chairman West: Guy O'Connor
Treasurer: Tom Slaughter

Motion: A motion was made by Dale Doucet to accept the names by acclamation. Seconded by Tom Meserve.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Tom Meserve

SECONDED BY: Russ Golesch

VOTE: All in Favor: 13 All opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0.

Motion: **Passed**

Secretary: This position had been vacated by elected member Ron Friend during his term. The position was filled by Douglas Brown (pro-tempore). As the position was filled pro-tempore, it was available to be filled. After some discussion a motion was made by Larry Kunnard, seconded by Jim Lambert, that the position be open for election.

Glenn Carpenter was nominated by Larry Kunnard, seconded by Tim Lambert.

No other nominations were offered.

Motion was made to close nominations by Larry Kunnard, seconded by Russ Golesch.

Motion: Dale Doucet made a motion to accept Glenn Carpenter as conference secretary by acclamation. This was seconded by Larry Kunnard.

VOTE: All in favor: 13 All opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0.

Old Business:

1. Proposal voted on at 2007 Annual Meeting (Big Bear, CA) that would require a By-law change to SWC By-law Section 3.22. Proposed that the Southwest Conference Board would have the ability to waive chapter dues of \$1.00 per member or \$25.00 per chapter paid annually when the funds in the treasury are adequate to run SWC business.
 - a) Guy O'Connor(Vice Chair West) spoke at length that by reading the actual existing bylaw there was no need for this resolution as it clearly states that the board already has the ability to raise/lower/eliminate chapter dues.
 - b) Dale Doucet made a motion to cancel this resolution, seconded by Tim Lambert.
 - c) Discussion was brought forth by Rod Purcell that the dues be kept and used to offset annual conference expenses. As this conference should be receiving an additional \$500 from International it was stated by Guy O'Connor that funds were already being planned for the purpose of seeding host chapter expenses.
 - d) Discussion was also made about how only one chapter had paid their dues this year, and that no enforcement action had taken place in years past when a chapter did not pay their fair share.

Motion: To cancel this resolution as it is unnecessary

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Dale Doucet

SECONDED BY: Tim Lambert

VOTE: All in favor: Unanimous by voice vote All opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0.

Motion: **Passed**

2. Motion was made to reimburse TX III for the dues that they had paid this year.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: CA VI

SECONDED BY: NM III

VOTE: All in favor: Unanimous by voice vote All Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0.

Motion: **Passed**

3. Southwest Conference Newsletter was mentioned at the Big Bear Meeting (2007). Is there still an interest to have one published and on the internet?
 - a) Ron Friend made a motion to establish a newsletter, this was seconded by Jim Lara, and send it out to all chapter presidents in the Southwest Conference. SWC Secretary Glenn Carpenter stated that he will be sending out periodic information to all presidents and this could be included. The motion was withdrawn by Ron Friend.

New Business:

1. 2009 Southwest Conference to be sponsored by CA XI and XIV on June 3rd - 6th in Ventura, CA. Pre-registration (prior to 02/15/09) \$89/person. Registration after 02/15/09 \$110/person. Hotel Info: Marriot Ventura Beach – 2055 Harbor Blvd, Ventura CA 93001 price \$114/night.
2. 2010 Southwest Conference: There was a proposal to combine both the Southwest Conference (SWC) and West Coast Conference (WCC) in 2010. Karl Hutchins (WCC Chairman) was present and made a proposal to have the joint conference in Grand Junction, CO. A voice vote was taken as to whether there might be any interest in combining our two conferences in 2010. No objections were raised and as no chapters had made their intentions known to host a 2010 conference, a motion was made to have the conference in Grand Junction, CO.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: CA VI

SECONDED BY: NM III

VOTE: All in favor: Unanimous by voice vote All Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0.

Motion: **Passed**

3. Rio Grande Conference: It was brought up by SWC Chairman Jack Kaylor that the Rio Grande Conference (RGC) was technically in violation of its charter and he wanted to know if our membership wanted him to pursue the issue.

Overview: When the RGC had been formed they were mandated to establish chapters in Texas, Oklahoma and Mexico. A number of chapters that had been in the SWC were transferred to the RGC to help make up the conference. The RGC was given three years to establish all of the required chapters. As the RGC did not comply within the required time-line, they were given two one year extensions to come into compliance. That was seven years ago. The RGC still has not complied with the requirement to establish chapters in Mexico. At the time of the RGC being formed a great debate had taken place within the SWC regarding having chapters formed in Mexico. The prevailing SWC thought, at the time, was that no chapters should be allowed to form in Mexico due to the vast amount of corruption in law enforcement there.

Discussion:

Larry Kunard spoke to the reasons that Texas chapters wanted to cede from the Southwest and other conferences. The size of Texas was the predominate reason. It took too long to get to attend any conference, and the conferences were not addressing issues unique to Texas.

Jerry Bryant(Intl Secretary) spoke to his belief that there was really no violation as long as the conference was willing to accept any chapter from Texas, Oklahoma, and Mexico.

As such, he felt that there would be great resistance from the RGC and little chance to reinstate chapters that the SWC lost during the formation of the RGC.

A voice vote was taken as to whether those members attending the business meeting wanted the SWC Chairman to not pursue trying to get the chapters originally lost to the RGC back.

VOTE: All in favor: Unanimous by voice vote All Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0.

Southwest Conference Chairman's Report: Jack Kaylor

1. Welcomed everyone to the 2008 Southwest Conference and thanked the host chapters for the great effort they had put in.
2. The SWC remains strong at 27 chapters. We have a new chapter that was recently formed in Blythe, CA (CA XX). The SWC Vice-Chairman have been urged to work with the chapter VP's in an attempt to vastly increase our recruiting and retention. We also have to maintain the interests of our chapter family members. The more that a person gets involved, and that includes family members, it is easier to retain their membership. They will have a greater vested interest in staying a members.
3. Intl Proposal 2008-004: A proposal had been made before the Board of Governors to give a minimum of \$1200.00 to each conference. Presently each conference is rebated \$1.00 for every member in that conference. Our conference has 816 members, and as such, we would benefit from this change. This proposal passed the BOG meeting and it will require a By-law change so it will be brought to the Intl General membership meeting.
4. The Editor of the Blue Knights News (Mike Fletcher) asked for each conference chairman to ask their membership if they felt a compelling need to get a hard copy newsletter or if one sent digitally (ie., email) would be sufficient.
 - A show of hands was taken and the vast majority wanted to continue receiving a hard copy of the Intl Blue Knights News. Southwest Chairman will pass this on to the Editor.
5. Two websites were submitted from the SWC for consideration as the Intl Website of the Year. There are some very good websites within this conference and they really help our chapters be able to recruit and establish better communications.
6. The Chairman thanked all of the chapters that sent nominations for Blue Knight of the Year, Lord/Lady Knight of the Year and the Amos Elliot Ambassador of the Year Award. It gives the chapters and conference the ability to recognize those who have made great efforts within their chapters. While the SWC board did receive a few nominations we hope to receive even more next year. All 2009 nominations need to be into the SWC Board by May 1, 2009.

Chapter Reports:

AZ VI: - approximately 50 members; has a safety program in place that sends safety emails out to their members; working with paramedics & 1st responders on dealing with motorcycle related injuries.

AZ IX: - Approximately 46 members; will be pushing to add safety program

CA IV: - lost 9 members this year and now has 57 members

CA VI: - has 73 members and is recruiting as hard as they can; have a safety program with two safety officers; lost one their founding first lady's (Zelda Morris) this year and she will be missed; Annual Benefit Ride June 23rd for C.O.P.S. – Southern California.

CA XVII: - approximately 30 members; will be hosting the 2009 Southwest Conference in Ventura, CA. Check out the link: www.blueknights-ca17.org

CO I: - Approximately 100 members; has an active safety officer; holds annual safety ride (full day of safety activities); State Patrol Youth Authority is their charity to help the “good” kids.

CO II: - Approximately 28 members; they have a new safety officer who is also a MSF instructor; supports the Wing Cash Memorial charity

CO III: - They have 27 members but lost one member this year to Heaven I

CO IX: - They have 41 members; puts on a motorcycle safety course for their members; and are involved with the Special Olympics

NM I: - They have 14 members

NM II: - They have 33 members

NM III: - They have 34 members

NM VI: - Last year they co-sponsored the Albuquerque Toy Run with approximately 500 participants; This year their primary beneficiary will be C.O.P.S.

TX III: - They have 26 members; pushed for each chapter to seek the Intl 100% retention award next year.

[International President Mike Ripsch:](#)

1. Stated that he was glad to be in attendance. That each conference had their own “flavor” to them and he thoroughly enjoyed the Southwest Conference.
2. Gave out the Intl President's Banner. This is done whenever the Intl President attends a Blue Knight event.
3. Promoted the upcoming Intl elections. Spoke of why there is not a large turnout to our conference of candidates running for office. Only 9% of the Southwest Conference returned their ballots during the last election. He encouraged all of us to get out and send in our ballots in to be counted.
4. The European Conference Newsletter is now online and available to everyone.

International Secretary Jerry Bryant:

1. Addressed the election process and asked for every chapter president to help get their chapter members to vote in the upcoming election.
2. Will be running for Intl President and needs each of our votes.

Good of the order: None

Motion to adjourn: Larry Kunard Seconded by: Guy O'Connor

Next Meeting: June 3 through 6, 2009 Ventura, CA

Meeting Adjourned: 1047