



# Blue Knights Illinois XIX

**May 2023**

**Volume 14 Issue 5**

## Letter from the editor

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Greetings members, I hope this newsletter finds all of you well! It has been another busy month. It's riding season. I have been out on mine several times. Also, a group of us took a ride to Starved Rock for lunch. It not only felt good to get out on the bike but to spend the day with members on a group ride. We need to do this more often.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Badge Sets are almost becoming a fulltime job. DJ Alvarez, the International President has offered to deliver some to the European conference to help the membership and us out. We had some overseas members take advantage of DJ's offer. I also found out that having a corporate account with UPS saves a lot of money. If I look up shipping charges, I get an average price to ship one badge set at about \$200+. If Collinson uses their corporate account a badge set sent to Germany was \$43 shipping. Not that our Chapter members really care about this, but I mention it because we need to get our website done. Once we have the website we can go back to the original plan and have a link to Collinson for worldwide member to order direct. We still need to enter it into the catalog, and we have also voted to place an ad in Sword and Shield.

Remember, bring some friends to visit a meeting or hang out when we go for a ride. We can always use new members. We have a few people that have contacted us, hopefully as the weather gets better, they will decide to join. We also have a few positions for offices available too, but they won't be handed out to just fill them. It would be better for the club to put people in those positions that actual attend meetings and/or events. If you want to be active and take a spot, let an officer know.

I had Jim send out an "Emergency Details" form for everyone to fill out. This is not to be intrusive, but the President, Vice President, Road Captain and I will have access to this. All forms will be made into a file so that when we are on a ride, if God forbid, something happens, emergency contacts can be made and information for EMS and first responders can be at hand. Please return this completed form at your earliest convenience. We ***STILL*** only had a few members do so at this time. I purchased three (3) USBs, and the completed forms are on them. We still need to complete this especially now that we are taking rides together.

We are still waiting on some of the members who wanted the new style patches ordered to pay for their sets. All existing members may purchase the new style banners and cleaned up center patch at the cost of \$85 for a complete set. Some people don't like the new patches and that's fine, they can keep their old ones. I want to thank Jim for all the work he put into this.

Our annual fundraiser, the WC Thunderbolts game is coming up June 16<sup>th</sup>. While it's not in the bylaws, it use to be expected that all members sell or purchase 10 tickets for \$100. I strongly encourage all members meet this goal. It's the only way we make money to keep the Chapter going. We are not like other clubs that charge hundreds of dollars for dues. Please help keep our Chapter going.

Your Executive Board is working very hard to bring life back into the Chapter. We have accomplished a lot of things the Chapter has been wanting to work on for a few years and add to the Chapter. Come to a meeting or ride and get involved again. We can make this Chapter strong. Stay safe and keep the rubber side down. Until next month

Fraternally  
Dennis



## Next Meeting

Wednesday  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
7:00 pm

at

JC's Ristorante

8650 Joliet Road  
McCook, IL. 60525

## Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: April 2023 meeting called to order at 1919 hrs. In attendance: Jim Ciukaj, Chris Riley, Dennis Calderone, Bob Yehnert, Candi Yehnert, Ron Kolnicki, Greg Kulasa and guests Keli Calderone, John Winkle and Rich Martinez. Al Stubenvoll and Joel Krettek are excused absences. Candi lead the group in a prayer.

Minutes: Dennis read the minutes from last month, Bob made a motion to approve as read and Greg seconded, all voted to accept the minutes.

President's Report: Jim and Greg made a presentation of our new Chapter Flag. Ron donated a Blue Line American flag and Greg donated our Chapter patch set. Greg's wife Betty sewed the patches on the flag. After the presentation we did the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim informed us that he has the tickets for the baseball game June 16 and will start distribution tonight after the meeting. We have three (3) sections on the third base line. It will be a "Grease" night. Should make for fun. Wednesday 4/12 five (5) members and six (6) guests took a ride to Starved Rock for lunch. It was a fun day, and we want to do more rides like this. Ron has four (4) rooms reserved for the GLRC conference.

State Rep's Report: The conference in Ohio had twenty (20) voting members and thirty-six (36) non-voting members. Chris shared with the group information on our baseball fundraiser and showed his Anniversary Badge set. We have 14,000 members in 544 Chapters. International is trying to push sales for the bricks. International's Special Fund is at \$258,000.00. GLRC is looking for a Chapter to Sponsor a Hospitality Suite. Cost is between \$750-\$1000 for a night. Don't forget about the upcoming elections.

Secretary's Report: All information will be covered under Committee Reports, Unfinished Business and New Business.

Treasurer's Report: Jim gave a Treasurer's report, the Chapter has a balance of \$8753.77. We have monies coming in and going out. This amount is not reflective of our actual balance because a lot of it is set to go to Collinson Enterprises to pay for the Anniversary Badge sets. Dennis made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Ron second the motion. All voted to pass the motion.

Committee Reports: Badge sales are doing very well. We received a large order for twenty-four (24) sets from VA. Thanks to DJ several overseas members were able to save money on shipping. Dennis found out that shipping overseas is not as expensive as originally thought. Collinson has a corporate account.

That will save members lots of money to ship overseas. Dennis cannot get prices for each individual member ordering. That said, we need to get our website up and running so members can order direct from our link. Camp Quality responded to Dennis' email. Mary said that only two members can attend, and both must be vaccinated. Unfortunately, we can no longer provide rides to the kids because the new location and their insurance doesn't allow it.

Sickness and Distress: None.

Unfinished business: We mentioned about still having a lot of signed Bobby Hall memorabilia to sell. Now that he has passed, RIP, we should think about raffling it off. Jim is still looking for the "Let's Ride" envelopes. Everyone should make an envelope with a ride. On the envelope, put if it is a day ride or overnight ride. We can pick a date to meet up at WildFire Harley Davidson in Villa Park and ride. Villa Park was determined as a halfway point between our North and South members to meet. Upon meeting there we will pull an envelope and ride to the destination listed. With all the sales for the Anniversary Badge sets requesting PayPal, the Chapter needs a PayPal account. The only way to set up a PayPal is to have a phone number associated with it. Two months ago, we voted to get a dedicated phone line for the chapter. We need to start work on the website.

New Business: Due to the fact that we can't provide rides to the kids at Camp Quality, We might think about adding another benefactor for our fundraiser. Dennis made a motion that we join in with Illinois IX to help raise money for the Manteno's Veterans Home if Illinois IX will accept our help and we continue to provide a meal for Camp Quality. Ron seconded the motion. We began discussion with Beaner who stated that Ridgewood Cycle Association M/C club actual take the lead in the fundraising for the Annual Bike Blessing and BBQ. Illinois IX still donates what they can and still try to sell the "Ride with A Veteran" pins. The motion was amended to include help from our Chapter for the pin sales and the Annual Bike Blessing and BBQ. All voted in favor. We will still provide the meals at Camp Quality and attempt to send two representatives when the meal is served.

Adjournment: Ron made a motion to adjourn, Jim seconded, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2049 hrs. Respectfully submitted Secretary Dennis Calderone

## **\*\* Attention \*\*** **Members**

If you've run into  
some  
motorcycle problems  
&  
need a trailer to haul  
your baby to your  
mechanic.....

Give  
**Franco Losurdo**  
a call at  
**630-766-5141**

He has a trailer that he  
is willing to loan to  
members in need  
for  
**Local Area Runs**

We are still in need of a Road Captain. Duties can be found in the By-Laws. Interested? Let Jim or Al know.

## Treasurer's Report

Due to the Treasurer's Office changing hands, an audit will be conducted. As of this writing the Chapter's balance is \$5332.77.

## Final Message From The President

Greetings Brothers and Sisters, hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit. We have been making a lot of progress within the chapter between the anniversary badge sets and now the annual baseball game. The Baseball game this year will be on June 16th, which is a Friday night game. Tickets are still \$10.00 per person and they're sponsoring a Grease theme night and post-game fireworks, please help sell tickets for our fundraiser. We are in the process of getting a new webpage for the club which should help Dennis out with the sales end of the badge sets. Also, if you haven't gotten your new set of patches (if you desire), we still have them for \$85.00 a set. As riding season approaches us, please check over your bike and make sure you are road ready. I cannot stress enough about our safety while riding. Some things to check prior to going out; tires and shocks are properly inflated, check all of your lights, check your cables are in good working order, double check your brakes, make sure the fluid levels are where they need to be, change or add as needed, and of course check your kickstand to make sure it's not loose or bent. We are in the process of vetting a few new members, one person has already met our requirements and is waiting on his family's approval. I know life happens and schedules conflict, but I hope to see each and every one of you out on the road sometime this year. As always be safe and ride with pride.

Ride with Pride.  
Jim Ciukaj  
President  
Blue Knights XIX  
[j.ciukaj@yahoo.com](mailto:j.ciukaj@yahoo.com)

Chaplain Corner – MAY 2023

“Playing with the BIG BOYS”

As a young girl, I always looked forward to Sunday afternoons when Mom would make those hearty meals after Church and my brothers’ families would come over. Some of my greatest memories were when my BIG brothers (8 and 13 years older) invited me to play sports with them. Wow... I got to play with the BIG BOYS. Of course, they made arrangements that allowed (little, weak and unequipped) me to play football with them. I only played offense (wide receiver mostly). I look back now and realize, unlike the Bears, I won every Sunday game.

What an honor for me to participate on the team with my BIG brothers. My brothers were very competitive, so the game was serious stuff, and I took my licks. I had to listen and execute each play called. I learned to run, avoid or push through a block, catch, take a hit, fall and get back up. Not only that, I learned a tremendous amount of life skills. Thank goodness my brothers have a passion to compete and win. Now that I’m older, I believe those Sunday afternoon “battles” jump started my willingness to build a godly character. First came acceptance (loved/chosen), then came the willingness to listen to instructions (run my routes accurately), passion and joy (score touchdowns), unity (team/family unit) can overcome all opposition. Eventually, I gained knowledge, confidence, skills, strength and spirit to overcome. I realized these same characteristics are exactly what is required of us in the development of a Christ follower. We ultimately are on the Greatest Team of all times, playing with the BIG BOYS... Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Do you ever wonder what Jesus’ disciples and followers mentally battled as they were witnesses to Christ resurrection? What was their state of mind during the weeks and months after that 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday? Some even witnessed Christ taken up to Heaven and many experienced the Holy Spirit’s power entering into their inner being, given them Supernatural powers. They had so many unknowns to face. The New Testament gives a glimpse of their lives. I guess you can say, after all they were up against, they still chose to play on the team with the BIG BOYS...

Each one of those witnesses, that experienced Jesus, had a story to tell. The same goes for each of us. You too have a unique connection to the (BIG BOYS) Most Holy God that created you in their image. Some of our life issues are very difficult, hurtful and filled with failures. Yet, our memories help us to see, in full view, how God walked us through our past struggles and weaknesses. Did you know you are also “Playing with the BIG BOYS” just like the first Christian believers? I know, when I view my life from God’s perspective, I feel lifted up.

God gives us a choice to handle problems our way or His way. You can lash out at a difficult situation or relationship, build resentment toward it or the individual and feel sorry for yourself. This process can take you down into a deep pit of self-pity. There is an alternative. The problem can be a ladder, enabling you to climb up and see your life from God’s perspective. God wants His team of true believers to welcome difficult times as perspective-lifters.

God’s children tend to sleepwalk through their days until they bump into an obstacle that stymies them. If you encounter a problem with no immediate solution, your response to the situation will take you either up or down. If you choose to view from above, the obstacle that frustrated you, in most cases, is only a small and momentary trouble. Once your perspective has been heightened, you can look away from the problem altogether. This is a touchdown.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 – Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and monetary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. There is so much power in the Word of God. Best play book ever.

SPECIAL MENTION: the Story behind the story. Thank you Mom for those Sunday meals and so much more. Simple Sunday dinners changed my life. Don’t forget to let your Mother hear those words of gratitude from your own mouth and if possible, a warm, heartfelt, long hug this Mother’s Day. Always give thanks for those mother figures in our lives. The simplest acts of love can achieve great rewards and amazing results. Praise God in all things.

By: Candi Yehnert – Chaplain – BK LEMC-Chicago XIX



**2023 BLUE KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – HARRISBURG/CAMP HILL – Hosted by PA V**  
**DRAFT SCHEDULE (Rev 7-5-22)**

Date Time	Sunday 7/16	Monday 7/17	Tuesday 7/18	Wednesday 7/19	Thursday 7/20	Friday 7/21
8:00		Optional Breakfast Grand Ballroom	Optional Breakfast Grand Ballroom	Optional Breakfast Grand Ballroom	Optional Breakfast Hotel Dining Room	Optional Breakfast Hotel Dining Room
9:00	CHURCH SERVICES Sun??	BOG MEETING 9am-12				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dinner &amp; Banquet in full Registration</li> <li>Youngster Room during Banquet with pizza &amp; activities</li> <li>No hard alcohol can be sold other than hotel</li> <li>Options for Thursday Banquet only and/or Wednesday Dinner only, (both include Hospitality)</li> </ul> <b>VENDORS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native Feather Jewelry</li> </ul>
10:00		2 RIDE CHOICES 10am - 1pm	2 RIDE CHOICES 10am - 4pm	2 RIDE CHOICES 10am - 4pm	2 RIDE CHOICES 10am - 4pm	
11:00		BOG MEETING				
12:00	2- RIDE CHOICES 12-4pm & 1-4pm	SALES ROOMS Veranda 12-6pm	SALES ROOMS Veranda 12-6pm	SALES ROOMS Veranda 12-6pm	SALES ROOMS Veranda 12-6pm	
1:00		GENERAL MEETING 1-4pm				
2:00	REGISTRATION 2pm - 5pm	REGISTRATION 2pm - 5pm	REGISTRATION 2pm - 5pm	REGISTRATION 2pm - 5pm	REGISTRATION 2pm - 5pm	
3:00		GENERAL MEETING				
4:00	HOSPITALITY Keystone ABCDE 4 - 6pm	HOSPITALITY Governors B 4 - 6pm	HOSPITALITY Governors B 4 - 6pm	HOSPITALITY Governors B 4 - 6pm	HOSPITALITY Governors B 4 - 6pm	
5:00				DINNER 5-8PM Grand Ballroom	BANQUET 6-9pm Grand Ballroom	
6:00	SALES ROOMS Veranda 6pm - 7					
7:00						
8:00	HOSPITALITY 8pm - Midnight	HOSPITALITY 8pm - Midnight	HOSPITALITY 8pm - Midnight	HOSPITALITY 8pm - Midnight		
9:00 +					HOSPITALITY 9pm - Midnight	

**MOTORCYCLE RIDES which include TOURS**



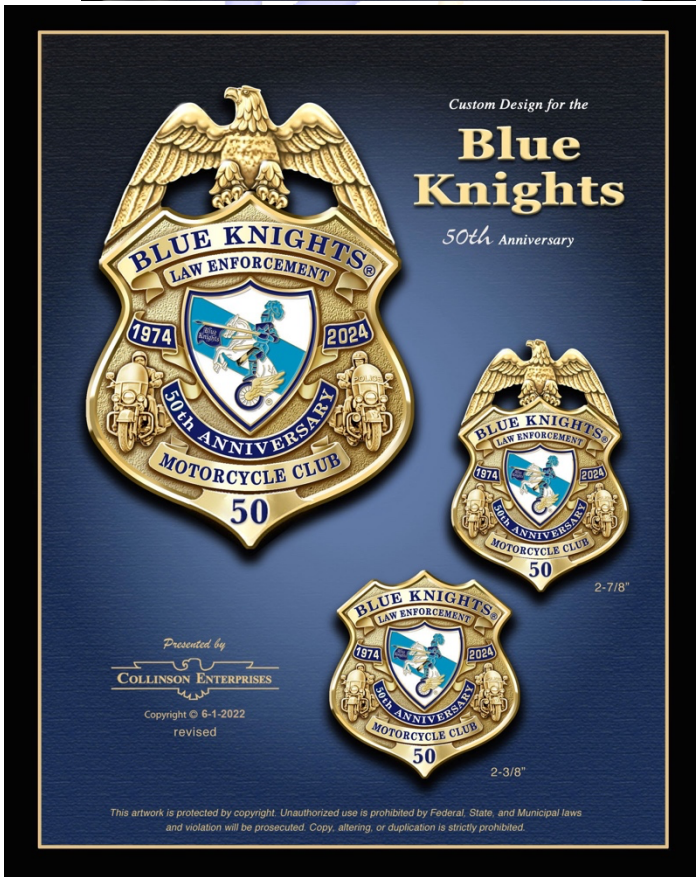
1. Harley Davidson Assembly Plant & Tour - York, PA
  2. Bill's Cycle Barn & Tour - Bloomsburg, PA
  3. PA Military Museum & Tour - Boalsburg, PA
  4. National Civil War Museum Tour - Harrisburg, PA
  5. PA State Police Museum Tour - Hershey, PA
  6. Gettysburg Battlefield Tour - Gettysburg, PA
- > All rides are led/escorted by PA V  
 > Clipboards will be available to signup.

**THINGS TO DO ON YOUR OWN - SUGGESTIONS**

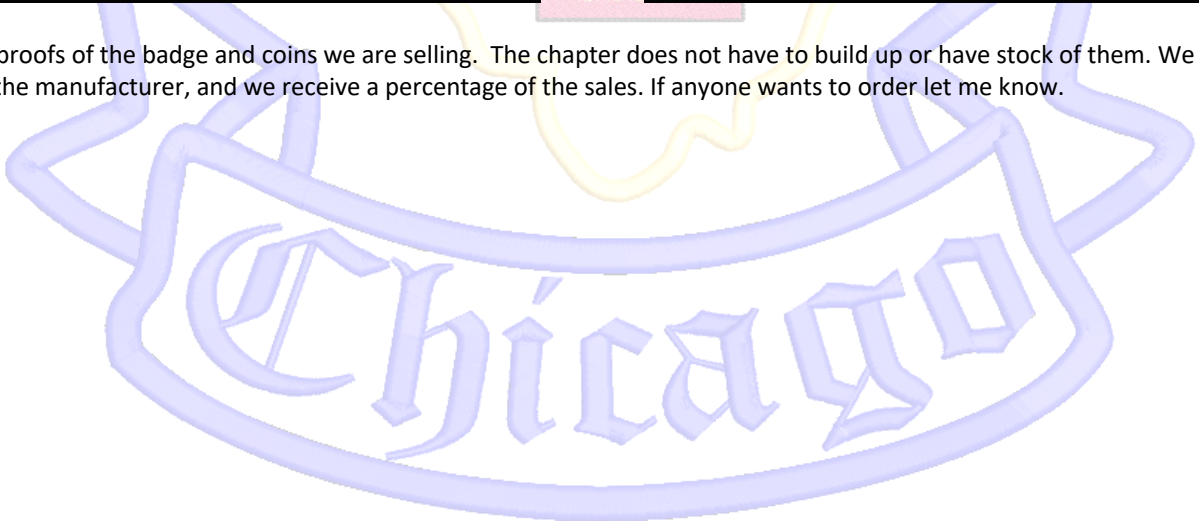
- Hershey Amusement Park - Hershey, PA
- Chocolate World - Hershey, PA
- PA State Capitol - Harrisburg, PA
- Vineyard at Hershey - Middletown, PA
- Hershey Rose Gardens - Hershey, PA
- Tanger Outlets - Hershey, PA
- Amish and Mennonite Communities - Lancaster
- "Coolest Small Town in America" - Lititz
- Day trips - to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington D.C. and Gettysburg

New patches for your Colors available to purchase for \$85 for complete set of 5 patches.





These are the proofs of the badge and coins we are selling. The chapter does not have to build up or have stock of them. We have a contract with the manufacturer, and we receive a percentage of the sales. If anyone wants to order let me know.



I picked up a custom binder. If anyone is interested let me know.



They did a pretty good job.





