

Mid-West Regional Conference Meeting Notes

Joint Conference Meeting

The bi-annual meeting of the Mid-West Regional Conference met in Eureka Springs, Arkansas on June 15, 2013. The meeting was opened by Chairman Rick McCrea. A pledge of to the flag was conducted as the first order of business. The meeting was in conjunction with the Southwest Conference.

The introduction of candidates for International office was held, those present gave brief statements of their positions.

A brief discussion as to the events of the upcoming International Convention to be held in Hot Springs, Arkansas in July. Further information was discussed concerning the 2014 International Convention to be held in Europe. There will be several packages for the trip that include varying tour destinations.

The Joint meeting was then adjourned. Both conferences were convened to conduct business for their respective areas.

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The meeting was opened by roll call of Chapters present with fourteen of thirty-seven Chapters answered.

Chairman McCrea gave a brief report of complaints that had been received. Two have been settled. A third is still active after a President of a chapter refused to renew a member's membership due to a dislike for the individual rather than for due cause. It is still under dispute and has been appealed to International for final arbitration.

The newsletter has been received by members and information in the letter provides much needed items that should be read.

The Vice Chairman gave a membership report of the Conference.

Secretary and Treasurer Report stated the amount of money present, the detail listing of all expenses. He also referred to the minutes that were provided the chapter presidents.

Our International Representative gave a report that a couple of changes have been made in the rules and bylaws of the organization. One change was the official definition and application of Personal Non Grata in the club. The loose definition of Personal Non Grata is that a person is no longer invited to any Blue Knight event, or any event that is open only to Blue Knights and their guests. Application of Personal Non Grata may only

be applied with the approval of the International Board.

A second change was the requirement that the International Treasurer provide a report with breakdown of expenses and deposits. This came about due to a discrepancy in record keeping. It was presented that the administration has no accountability to anyone. The business person even writes her own paycheck. After a long discussion a motion was presented and adopted to require a comprehensive audit of all Blue Knight accounts, including the business association. The audit would cover the last two administrations.

A controversy on the election balloting. A chapter in our conference that was suspended for non payment two years ago received ballots for International Election. It is never been explained how this happened because last year the chapter had been taken off the rolls, but someone had gone into the archives to get the information and send the former members their ballots. We do not believe any of them voted, but the ballots were sent and it is unknown if any other improper ballots were sent. Getting information as to the number of ballots printed and sent is not available, only that there were “enough” for the last election when asked. This may be a moot point in the future but a concern with this election as the integrity of the election may be in jeopardy.

The next conference will be in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. There are still rooms available.

The spring conference of 2014 will be held in Davenport, Iowa and the fall conference is scheduled to be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Spring Conference of 2015 will be put on by the Minnesota Four.

Under new business, Nebraska Two proposed a special award for those who do “good”. It was adopted with the nominations being forwarded to the Conference Board for selection and presentation of a certificate and patch.

The meeting was adjourned.