

# SRC HERALD



Blue Knights® International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club

June 2017

## From the Chairman: Rory MacConnell

SRC Members:

As most of the organization is preparing to put the bikes on the road for summer, we are winding down here in Florida somewhat as we approach rain season, and our non-riding months of heat.

We still get some riding in even with the heat, we don't "winterize" down here. Most of the SRC northern riders are getting into the better riding weather, with that in mind check the tires and ride safe.

Our SRC Safety Officer Chad Bohanan has created a Face Book page for anyone to use, check it out [Bksrcsafety](#) - watch some video's, get some info before riding.

We had a special event that our Vice Chairman / Pres. FL X Steven Confino and Jim Trachta FL State Rep / Pres FL IX had worked together on. The Harley off road TT races at Daytona Speedway. It was the first year of doing this, and after a few hiccups those that attended had the opportunity to represent the Blue Knights by riding onto the speedway and being out front for the national anthem. They also had a booth set up inside the grandstands. Great job from the members of FL IX.

FL IX will also be hosting the Daytona Biketoberfest weekend this year at a new venue, the Oceanside inn at 800-224-5056 ask for the rate code "BLUE KNIGHTS FLORIDA IX" questions, please contact Jim Trachta at: [BKFL9Pres@gmail.com](mailto:BKFL9Pres@gmail.com) or the FL IX web site

Our Spring Presidents meeting in Atlanta Georgia was in conjunction with the annual Georgia law enforcement memorial ride. We had a great turn out of Blue Knights to support the SRC and GA VII. The GA VII President Ed Christian has been running this event before he was a Blue Knight, they had over 1300 bikes fully escorted on the interstate into downtown Atlanta and back on the interstate, all shut down to traffic. This was the fastest I have ever gotten into and out of Atlanta and not 1 minute of traffic, go figure. Thank you to all who participate each year and the GA VII members and families that work on this each year in support of the Georgia fallen officers and their families.

The Fall SRC will be September 14<sup>th</sup> thru 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the Club Med Resort (all inclusive) Sandpiper bay in Port St Lucie Florida, details and info are available @ [www.bksrc.org](http://www.bksrc.org) or at [infosrcfall2017@bkflx.com](mailto:infosrcfall2017@bkflx.com).

(continued on page 2)

### SRC OFFICERS 2015 - 2017 CONTACT INFO

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## [From the Chairman: Rory Mac Connell \(continued\)](#)

I would also like to welcome Puerto Rico I back into the fold they are located just outside San Juan and eager to continue our goals on the island.

Next Spring's meeting has been moved to Thursday July 19<sup>th</sup> 2018, to be included in the Sunday - Friday International Convention in Stone Mountain Georgia. The Evergreen Marriott conference center will be the host location, the park also has a large **camping facility** in walking distance to the main hotel. The meeting date change was voted on by the SRC President's. All information and hotel availability will be presented at the International Convention in Milwaukee this July, as per convention guidelines rules. The SRC board hopes to have a larger contingent from the SRC as we have consolidated this to help our SRC members financially in hopes they could attend an International Convention presented in our own conference.

Fall 2018 SRC meeting will be in Charleston South Carolina hosted by SC III October 4-7, 2018. Room rates - \$109.00 + tax.

I will be running for the position of SRC Chairman for the 2017- 2019 term as I had submitted for. At the Spring meeting Brad Tollefson had been nominated from the floor to also run for this position.

I want to wish Brad and the other candidates for office the best and those attending the Fall SRC will cast the votes for the next SRC board, good luck to them all.

Steven Confino Vice Chairman – unopposed

Al Fryer Treasurer - unopposed

Justin Hartley Secretary– unopposed

International Representative -

Bob Awtrey – incumbent (if Bob wins INTL Vice Pres, he cannot hold 2 seats on the BOD) \_ We want Bob to win so, VOTE FOR BOB AWTRY INTL VICE PRESIDENT....

Jim Trachta

Sonny Goodson

Again I want to thank you all for your letting me represent you as your Chairman these last 2 years, and I hope to continue, with your vote in the Fall for 2 more years.

Fraternally

*Rory Mac Connell*

**Chairman, SRC Blue Knights International LEMC**

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## [From the Vice-Chair: Steve Confino](#)

Greetings,

The Fall 2017 Southern Regional Conference (SRC) is being hosted by FL -X (my chapter) at the Club Med - Sandpiper Resort located in Port Saint Lucie, Florida. This **"ALL INCLUSIVE"** resort should prove to be a great time for all attending.

Because access to the property is limited to reregistered guests only, the hosting chapter has made arrangements with Club Med to allow the **SRC** President's or their authorized chapter representative (with a letter from the President) access to the property for the President's meeting only. Please make sure you send your chapter's representative's name to [President@Bkflx.com](mailto:President@Bkflx.com) so that a pass can be issued. You do not have to send the name in if they are a guest staying on the property. Unfortunately, only 1 chapter representative will be allowed to attend the meeting to represent your chapter.

Our IR Bob Awtrey and I continue to work on new chapters and recruitment and retention issues. As I stated in the past, please send any ideas you may have in ways to attract new members to me so they can be explored.

As far as the upcoming International Election, please remember to send in your vote. All the candidates have bios out there and are available to answer any of your questions you may have for them. Although there can be only one person elected for each position, I wish them all good luck.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you all at the SRC in Port Saint Lucie, Florida. Stay Safe and Ride with Pride...

Steven Confino  
President, Blue Knights® LE MC FL-X  
Vice Chairman, Southern Regional Conference  
Chairman, International Public Relations Committee



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## *From the Secretary: Justin Hartley*

With riding season in full swing, I hope everyone is enjoying their part of the world. I can see by looking at Facebook and other social media sites that some are piling up the millage and enjoying the brotherhood of the Blue Knights®.

I would like to thank Ed Christian and the members of GA VI for hosting the Spring 2017 SRC. I know they already had a full plate with their police memorial ride scheduled. I know from hosting and SRC here in Anniston that it is no easy task. To throw on another headache to a busy weekend is not small accomplishment. It was nice only having to ride for a little over an hour this time instead of a full day's ride as well.

I'm going to hop on a soapbox here for a minute. I was once one of the members who complained about why a host chapter did things a certain way. When my chapter stepped up and put in a bid to host the SRC I thought it would be no big deal. Well, I soon learned that planning an SRC is not all its cracked up to be. From the very minute we announced we wanted to host and began to give a brief of our conference plan we got people complaining that this was a bad idea or that was a bad idea. When brothers started to arrive at our host hotel they began to complain about the layout, the pillows on the bed, the parking, and whatever else they could think of. When it rained and we decided not to lead rides for safety reasons people complained. We heard too much negative about the conference we were hosting. We had to work with what we had in our little part of the world. It may not have been perfect, but we sure tried to provide everyone with a place to stay at a cheap rate, food, beer, snacks, and some entertainment. The last few SRCs I've heard so much negativity from the brotherhood. WHY? Because it wasn't done your way? Brothers are complaining about a the locations of the SRCs. How about this, how about YOUR chapter steps up to the plate and host an SRC so it can be done your way. It is not like the presidents have a long list of chapters wanting to volunteer to host a conference, so what do you expect? If you're not going to be part of the solution, quit complaining until you are willing to become part of the solution. After my chapter hosted the conference I learned to go enjoy what is there. Sure it may not be the way I would have done something, but there is the beauty, I didn't have to plan the ride, the meals, the host site, the cost, the banquet, the t-shirt or any other little thing that has to be in place. To be quite honest, I would like to see one of the vast number of Florida chapters step up and host. In my six years in the club, I will have been to two SRCs in the state after I attend the Fall 2017 in Port St. Lucy. I've been to five in Alabama, two in Georgia, one in South Carolina, and five Louisiana. To sum it all up, lets have fun with what has been provided for us. Its about brotherhood, we all need to be reminded of that. OK, I'm stepping off of the soap box.

That being said, our next three SRCs are scheduled. Between Club Med this fall, the SRC in Atlanta during the 2018 International Convention and S.C.III hosting in the Fall of 2018. If a chapter wants to start planning, that's almost two whole years to get one done. If you need advice, ask the recent host chapters for advise and information on numbers. I had plenty of info given to me and I was more than happy to share it with everyone.

I'm going to close in saying I hope everyone enjoys their summer with family and the brotherhood. We have had an opportunity to work in the greatest job there is. We have all earned some R&R.

Justin Hartley  
SRC Secretary

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## *From the Treasurer: Al Fryer*

Blue Knight Brother's & Sister's,

I would like to start off by saying we had a great time at the 2017 SRC Spring Conference/Georgia Police Memorial Ride in Atlanta, Georgia! Although this was not a traditional conference, GAVII did a great job coordinating the SRC Conference with the Georgia State Memorial Ride! I don't think you could have asked for better weather, riding & fellowship!

As of this writing we have received the latest statements from Wells Fargo Bank and all of our books are up to date. If you would like additional information regarding these transactions please contact me.

I'm looking forward to seeing y'all at the 2017 SRC Fall Conference in Port Saint Lucie, Florida "Club Med".

This year our chapter attended several "Fallen Officer Memorial's" which were held by local agencies, which included the Pensacola Police Department and Escambia County Sheriff's Dept. We plan on including additional departments each year. I hope this is an event that other Blue Knight Chapters participate in.

My family and I will continue to pray for the safety of our Brothers & Sisters who walk the Thin Blue-Line, our Military and First Responders!



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## [From the International Rep: Bob Awtrey](#)

**Bob Awtrey, Candidate**

**Vice President, Blue Knights International. LE MC**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the **Southern Regional Conference, Blue Knights International**. The following is a brief bio on me and a few of the things that I stand for and bring to the table as a candidate for Vice President of the greatest Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club in the World. Please read and assess the information, so that you may understand my motivation for applying for this position.

I believe in our **Club**, it's **Members**, it's **Mission** and the **Founding Principles** of our "First Eight", and very simply, want to work to continue these goals and to address the membership needs of our club. Since 2011, our club has lost a staggering 2,634 Members worldwide (BOD meeting minutes, 2011-2016). Some of our Conferences have lost 20% of their members. Other Conferences, happily, have shown growth, with the European Conference posting a 61% gain in membership during this same period.

Our **Club** is a "membership-led" organization, guided by the needs and desires of each member Brother or Sister. Everything we do and say, everywhere we go and ride, each time we meet and discuss, we should do it in the name of Brotherhood and Friendship. This is a founding principle and the reason our great Club has flourished and remained for 43 years. We are the best and our guiding principle of, "**There are no strangers, only friends you haven't met.**", has made our organization stand out and stand tall amongst all other motorcycle clubs, throughout the world. People know when they see our colors, they can count on us to assist, lead, help or guide them if they need us.

Our founders were actually visionaries when they met to decide the guidelines and developed a pledge that tells all that hear it, who we really are; "**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.**"

My goal as your Vice President, would be to assist the President and BOD in continuing the Founding Father's principles and goals, in any way possible. This would include providing timely assistance to our Conferences, Chapters and Members as needed, especially in the area of recruiting new members and retaining our current ones. This can be done, and is now being accomplished in many Chapters worldwide.

I would suggest the following 4 things as guidance for accomplishing this.

**First-** Develop and implement a true recruiting program, teach it in seminar fashion at Conference Meetings and support successful chapters and conferences who truly recruit and spread our club values

**Second** – develop and promote a "Blue Star Recruitment and Retention" program. A simple Blue Star Patch, issued and worn by any member who recruits a new member.

This shows all that "I have helped my club"

**Third** – A program to recruit new members to our Club by encouraging chapters and conferences to regularly attend bike shows, meetings and appropriate gatherings of bikers, in an effort to get our Club presented and in the public view.

(continued on page 7)

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## *From the International Rep: Bob Awtrey (continued)*

**Fourth – “one for one”** a program to have each current Blue Knight say, “ I am in”, by recruiting one new member each. Just think of where we can go!(20,000 to 40,000)

I joined the Blue Knights 9 years ago because I was a retired LEO, looking for someone to ride and socialize with, that would understand where I came from and have my back when it was needed.

The Blue Knights were founded on those principles and we were a perfect fit. Thank-you Richard Koller, GA V.

Again, I believe in this Club’s Founders and it’s principles and would seek ways to return to them. I know that there are many other riders and LEOs out there that also join me in this belief.

We have to work to find them, to encourage them to join us and most importantly, to keep the Brothers and Sisters that we already have.

This would be my goal and measure.

Thank-you for reading this. If you agree with me and what I have said, please vote for me as your International Vice President. I would appreciate your vote and be honored for your confidence.



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## AL II: Mobile/ Baldwin Counties

Alabama II participated in a Crawfish Cook-Off to benefit the American Cancer Society on May 21 at the Fairhope Brewery. Several hundred people attended and the event makes thousands of dollars for the ACS. Alabama II won the cook-off last year and as trophy holder we were not eligible to win a second year in a row. A total of 1100 pounds of crawfish were cook by 7 teams

Doug Lamplugh

AL II



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## FL XXV

Blue Knights FL XXV, the Emerald Coast Chapter, were "kick stands up" to help when a recently retired XX year Florida Department of Corrections veteran sergeant fell victim to a stroke on December 26, 2016. One week later a tornado took out the new barn on the planned retirement hacienda with her husband, a XX year Okaloosa County (FL) Sheriff's Office Sergeant; he himself only XX months from retirement. After a month of hospitalization she was released, but two days later she suffered another stroke. Their retirement home needed major structural modifications to accommodate wheelchair access. Past Chapter President & Okaloosa Sheriff's County Office Lt. Ken Christmas paired up with local custom rifle builder, Ward Lewis of Precision Tactical Arms Company (P-Tac), Crestview, FL. P-Tac built a custom AR-15 rifle as a raffle prize. With the advertising help of the local Harley Davidson dealer, Emerald Coast Harley Davidson, Fort Walton Beach, FL, and passionate BK FL XXV members, on April 8, 2017 the BK FL XXV Emerald Coast Chapter presented the couple with a check for \$5250. Although neither were BK members, our chapter's commitment to helping our brothers and sisters is steadfast. Ride with Pride."

V/r,  
Michael J. Hogan  
President, BK FL XXV  
[\(850\) 259-4488](tel:8502594488) (via iPhone)  
email: [mibfwb@aol.com](mailto:mibfwb@aol.com)



# BRAD TOLLEFSON

*Candidate for*

## SRC CHAIRMAN

To all members of the Southern Regional Conference (SRC):

At the Fall SRC this September in Port St. Lucie Florida I will be running for the Office of Chairman for the SRC. Many of you know me, but for those who don't I thought I should tell you a little bit about myself.

I am currently a Lieutenant with the New Orleans Police Department. Previously I was a full time Police Officer in Maine and a Reserve Officer with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Service in Canada.

I joined the Blue Knights in 2005 and attended my 1<sup>st</sup> Conference at the 2006 Fall SRC in Daytona Beach, FL. Since then I have attended all SRC Conferences and most International Conventions. Additionally I have attended other Conferences in Ontario (Canada), Texas, Tennessee, Montana, and Colorado.

As any married man will tell you, it is far easier to be active in an organization when you have the support of your wife. My wife (Pam) has attended every conference and most conventions with me, and she is an active supporter of this organization.

In the past I have served as your SRC International Representative (2012-2015) and in addition to this time on the International Board, also served this organization by sitting on the International Budget Committee, the International Sales Committee, and the International By-law Committee. I have also served as the SRC's Mississippi State Rep and also held the Chapter Positions of President, Vice President and Secretary of Louisiana II (New Orleans).

If elected as your Conference Chairman I pledge to give this Conference my undivided attention. I understand and accept it will be my responsibility to know what is going on throughout this organization and to ensure you are kept informed. I promise to work with the Chapter Presidents, the Conference Board and the International Board to make the next two years the best it can be. I guarantee to fulfill my obligations to you in a timely and professional manner and I appreciate your consideration for this position. On September 15<sup>th</sup> I hope I can count on your support. Please encourage your Chapter President or their designee to vote.

Chapter Presidents: If you will be unable to attend the SRC President's Meeting, please provide a designee with a letter authorizing them to attend and vote on behalf of your Chapter.

Ride with Pride.

**Brad Tollefson**



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## SONNY GOODSON

Greetings Sisters and Brothers:

My name is Sonny Goodson and I am the current president of Georgia XIX and I am your candidate for the position of Southern Regional Conference International Representative.

I began my membership with the Blue Knights with Georgia XVI and in early 2013 recognized a need to have a local chapter in the eastern part of metro Atlanta. During the months of discussion with the SRC International Rep and other chapter presidents it became clear to me that we as an organization had moved away from what made us grow our membership over the years with that being recruiting new members.

Once approval for our new chapter was granted in June 2013, I began an effort through social media, emails and personal contact to recruit new members. By the time we sent our package to International we chartered our chapter with 41 members with 36 being *NEW members*. *At the close of 2013 came we ended the year with a membership of 71 members. Over the last 4 years Georgia XIX has grown and expanded to be able to create 2 new chapters from our membership, Georgia XX & Georgia XXI and began discussions which created a third new chapter Ga XXII in Northern Georgia and put in place our first Georgia Madam President all while serving as your North Georgia State Rep.*

We entered talks and actions that resulted in the continued operation of 3 chapters that had decided to close due to poor membership results and poor membership activity. 2 of these chapters continue to thrive and grow as of today with the 3<sup>rd</sup> joining with another chapter and now has active membership.

Every chapter needs to grow each year and my commitment to you if elected as your SRC International Rep I will do everything in my power to help and assist your chapter to grow and will be a direct link for your chapter to International. The Blue Knights are a membership driven law enforcement motorcycle club and we as the membership must have a person willing to stand up and say what is important to the membership of the Southern Regional Conference.

My belief is simple, "it's not what you say it's what you are willing to do" to make your life, family, church and chapter successful. Over the last few years we all have seen a decline in our memberships willingness to be and stay involved. I have heard it said that only 20% of a chapter's membership is active and the rest are just members.

As the leaders of our chapters we must find a way together to get the membership active again and change the direction of the Blue Knights International membership.

### RECRUITMENT AND EXCITEMENT

This is my vision for future growth and with your help and support WE can make this happen.

Thank you for your support and hope to see you at the fall SRC.

*Ride with Pride*  
*Sonny Goodson*

**Candidate for Southern Regional Conference International Rep.**