# THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER Blue Knights © California VI

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# NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE

MAY 11, 2024









Poker Chip drawing was held. Jack Knish name was drawn. Since Jack was not present he did not win the \$15.

By being present at the monthly Blue Knight Chapter meeting you become eligible for the drawing. If you are present, you win the amount in the pot. If you are not present \$5 is added to the pot. Currently the amount is \$20.



## THE BLUE KNIGHTS





The Blue Knights® International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc., is an International fraternal organization comprised of law enforcement officers and their families who are also motorcycle enthusiasts.

Headquartered in Bangor, Maine, the Blue Knights® operates under an international constitution and bylaws within an organizational structure of an international board of directors and eleven regional conferences, each conference including a number of local chapters. The Blue Knights® promotes safe and responsible motorcycling and sponsors fund raising in support of numerous charities.

The inception of the Blue Knights® came in April 1974 when a Bangor Maine, police officer had the idea of forming a motorcycle club for people in law enforcement. Since then, the club has grown to become the foremost and largest international law enforcement motorcycle club. Today, there are over twenty thousand Blue Knights® worldwide in six hundred chapters in the twenty-nine countries and one commonwealth.



#### **OUR CHAPTER IN SAN DIEGO**



#### **CALIFORNIA VI**

Chapter California VI was formed in 1987 by a group of seventeen San Diego area law enforcement officers, some retired and some on active duty. We have been chartered since January 1988, making us one of the oldest currently existing Blue Knights® chapters in California. Our members are full-time, part-time and retired law enforcement officers from local, county, state and federal levels.

We are presently one of the largest chapters in the Southwest Conference, with over 40 members on our rolls. Chapter California VI members strive to promote a positive image both of law enforcement and motorcycling. We are active in community service projects, and each year we donate to local charities.

Chapter meetings are held at 0900 on the second Saturday of the month at the Broken Yolk Restaurant, 1851 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, CA. (Unless that is a holiday weekend) After the breakfast and one hour meeting, we go for a ride.

Persons interested in becoming a member may contact Vice President Ray Juanengo by email at: BlueKnightsCAVI.VP@gmail.com



# CALIFORNIA VI OFFICERS AND STAFF



**PRESIDENT** 

**Ken Smith** 

**VICE-PRESIDENT** 

Ray Juanengo

**SECRETARY** 

Mike Wagner

**TREASURER** 

**Chuck Belletti** 

**DIRECTORS** 

**Richard Bennett** 

**Bill Craw** 

**Mike Harrison** 

**MORALE & WELFARE** 

Michelle Juanengo

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

**John Lopotosky** 

**WEBMASTER** 

**Stephen Roche** 

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** 

**Richard Bennett** 

RIDE COORDINATOR

**Michael Belluso** 

SAFETY OFFICER

Mike Manen

**QUARTERMASTER** 

**Arturo Romero** 

**GREETER** 

**Tina Lopotosky** 

PLEDGE: 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®



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Smith President



Hello my wonderful Blue Knights Family. Yep, I said it, we're family. Whether you like it or not, you're stuck with me (at least til you vote me outta office lol). They say you can't pick your family; you get what you get at birth.

There are others that say you can pick your family. Think of those without parents or siblings, they will go on in life and surround themselves with those they care about and then they in turn become their family.

Here in Blue Knights, we do get to pick our family. Another good reason to be an excellent ambassador of goodwill and recruiting: you never know who you are auditioning for as a potential new "family" member!

When I found out about Blue Knights and what they stood for, I knew I wanted to be part of that family. When I met my first Blue Knight, Ray Juanengo, many years ago at a law enforcement ride, I immediately knew I wanted to be part of whatever family/chapter he did. Here we are years later and our family has grown by leaps and bounds!

This past week I met with some Blue Knights from CAL X and Cal IV. Most of them I had not seen since last Southwest Conference. When we met up at my work so they could tour the USS Midway, we immediately greeted each other like no time had passed at all, and with a respect and brotherhood that just seems to get stronger. THAT is Blue Knights. THAT is family. Its more than a gratifying feeling to sit with all of you each month at our breakfast meetings, knowing you're all there for me, and I for you, and all for each other. NOTHING is more important than that.

We have members fighting health battles, widows of members trying to continue to take care of themselves, and others fighting their own battles. In today's crazy world, I rest easy knowing I belong to an incredible family full of incredible people. THANK YOU for being that spirit, that brotherhood, for being there for each other, and for being FAMILY.

RWP!

Ken



# VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ray Juanengo, Vice President



#### **Blue Knights support Mary Pitman**

Our quartermaster, **Arturo Romero**, our Road Captain **Mike Belluso** and I recently had the pleasure of attending an event at Indian Motorcycle of San Diego for our friend (and friend of the club) **Mary** "Cupcake" Pittman.

There, Mary revealed that she had been chosen to be a guardian/attendant on the next Honor Flight out of San Diego for Special Forces veterans to Washington DC. She also revealed



Mary Pitman with her 2024 Indian Roadmaster

her new bike (a gorgeous black 2024 Indian Roadmaster) that will be instrumental in her riding across the country to raise funds for these flights.

Further, at the event were riders from CVMA 33-1, VFW, Fire Hogs, Indian Riders of San Diego and San Diego Vulcan Riders. It was heartening to see so many riders out to support our mutual friend. Even more so, it was good exposure for our club at a community event. We are after all members of the biker community.

We all love our club and want to see it grow. I believe a big component of that is participation in these community events, showing people who we are. If you haven't read it yet, please peruse Director Richard Bennett's article on membership and growth. It touches on valid points facing not just us, but other organizations built around the enthusiasm for motorcycles.

With the days growing longer and the weather getting warmer, we'll have more opportunities to ride. When these opportunities arise, I am confident that we as a club will come together. Whether in supporting other organizations' benefit rides or getting ours off the ground. Until then, I encourage you to Ride with Pride!

PS: CVMA's Stand Up Ride is around the corner on April 20th. Let's ride!

#### BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI General Membership Meeting



Call to Order: Chapter President Ken Smith at 0900 hours

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for Members of Heaven I Recognition of Fallen Chapter Members

Introductions/Guests: Chuck Abney from Attorney Kings, Honey- Sheriff Deputy potential member, Kyle Fitchhorn (National City PD) and his wife Mae

#### Blue Knights Pledge

"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."

#### **President Ken Smith**

- 1. Swearing in of new Honorary Mike Brashars
- 2. Poker Run Alan Wheeler and Mike Harrison working on it, route and stops almost fully routed out
- 3. Several Docs received via mail to to Chapter, two were ads, one a receipt from State of Ca for license fee.

#### Vice President Ray Juanengo

 Reminded everyone of Deputy Dub's Ride on May 4, 2024 and the May Ride on May 18, 2024. Looking for vendors for events, veteran owned business. Make sure they are on the website.

#### **Treasurer Chuck Belletti**

**1.** The fiscal status of the club given to club members.

#### **Secretary Mike Wagner**

Excused to be at event representing Chapter, will report next meeting

#### BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI General Membership Meeting

#### **Past President John Lopotosky**

1. Sent out an email re: BK COPS Run and brought actual Badge for Chapter to see. If interested see John. Only 100 made, currently 3 spots open.

#### **Chapter Directors:**

#### **Richard Bennett & Newsletter Editor**

- 1. The new revised Procedures Manual needs to be ratified by the General Membership today.
- 2. The monthly newsletter is getting better with all the contributions from members but still looking for submissions
- 3. Introduced motor officer Kyle Fitchhorn from National City PD

#### Mike Harrison

1. Excused to be at event representing Chapter, will report next meeting

#### **Emeritus Bill Craw**

1. Visited TC Capers widow Debra, she is preparing to move to NY. Obtained some police gear belonging to TC, offered it up to Chapter member.

#### Staff:

#### Safety Officer- Mike Manen

1. Congratulated Ray on having his picture in Sword and Shield Magazine. Jokingly said Ray offering \$5 autographed copies.

#### Webmaster - Stephen Roche

Not present - has added latest events to web page

#### **Arturo Romero - (Quarter Master)**

1. Nothing new in the Quartermaster front, new jersies and t shirts and hoodies still available. Is planning a trip to Tombstone for those interested.

#### Ride Coordinator - Michael Belluso

**1.** AMR – Ride to Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial. Then head North and inland through Del Mar/Fairbanks Ranch/Olivenhein/Escondido area. Ride ends at Double Peak Park in San Marcos/San Elijo Hills area. 6 riders.

#### **Honorary Member – Mike Brashars**

1. Suggested having a Rummage Sale. Proceeds go to the Chapter. Has a location confirmed, needs members to bring items and select a date.

#### Michelle Juanengo (Morale/Welfare Coordinator)

1. Has card for Ken Smith's father's passing

#### Tina Lopotosky (Morale/Welfare Coordinator)

Jorge Ortiz – SWC International Rep Not present

#### BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI General Membership Meeting

#### Good of the order:

Broken Yolk provided a special pancake cupcake item with candle, entire Chapter sang Happy Bithday to Bill Craw.

Chuck Abney spoke for about 10 minutes about supporting LE and Vet organizations. He also discussed Prop 213, uninsured motorists and motorists at fault in an accident are prohibited from recovering non-economic damages, such as pain and suffering, in a personal injury lawsuit.

They can still recover economic damages, like medical expenses, property, and lost wages. He left business cards and is available to discuss further.

Deputy Honey discussed the Deputy Dubbs ride in detail and has ridden with our Chapter on other rides.

President Ken asked for a motion to ratify the Chapter Procedures as presented. Motion by Bill Craw, seconded by John. Unanimous by all Chapter members present. No "no's" or discussion. Motion passes, ratified procedures to be posted on website.

#### Poker Chip Drawing:

Jack Knish chip drawn, not present. Pot now at \$20.

**50 – 50 Winners:** \$40 each 1<sup>st</sup>: Arturo Romero 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bill Craw

Chapter raffle held, 7 prizes brought.

Motion to Adjourn by: First by: Mike Manen Seconded by: Jay Ellis (The legend and oldest

Chapter member!)

Meeting Adjourned at: 1002 hours

Next Meeting: May 11, 2024



# **SAFETY MESSAGE**Mike Manen, Safety Officer



Well spring is upon us, so now is maybe a good time for a refresher of the basics for safe and fun riding. On a search on the internet, I found an article with a lot of the basics. Be safe and Ride with Pride!

Motorcycle riding can be an exhilarating experience, but it also comes with its fair share of risks. As a motorcycle rider, it is crucial to prioritize safety at all times. By following a few simple tips, you can significantly reduce the chances of accidents and ensure a safe and enjoyable ride. Here are some riding safety tips that every motorcycle rider should keep in mind.

- 1. Wear the Right Gear: One of the most important aspects of motorcycle safety is wearing the appropriate gear. Always wear a DOT-approved helmet to protect your head in case of an accident. Additionally, invest in a sturdy jacket, pants, gloves, and boots that are specifically designed for motorcycle riding. These gear not only provide protection but also enhance your visibility on the road.
- 2. **Conduct Regular Maintenance**: Before hitting the road, make sure your motorcycle is in good working condition. Regularly check the brakes, tires, lights, and fluid levels. A well-maintained motorcycle is less likely to malfunction, reducing the risk of accidents caused by mechanical failures.



3. **Observe Traffic Laws**: Adhering to traffic laws is crucial for your safety as well as the safety of others on the road. Always obey speed limits, traffic signals, and road signs. Be aware of your surroundings and consistently use your turn signals when changing lanes or making turns. Remember, being a responsible rider not only protects you but also promotes a positive image of motorcycle riders.

4. **Stay Visible**: Motorcycles are smaller and less visible than other vehicles on the road. To enhance your visibility, wear bright-colored gear and always use your headlights, even

during the day. Position yourself in such a way that you are easily seen by other drivers. Avoid riding in blind spots and always use your mirrors to stay aware of the traffic around you.

- 5. **Practice Defensive Riding**: Defensive riding means anticipating potential hazards and taking proactive measures to avoid them. Keep a safe distance from other vehicles, allowing yourself enough time to react to sudden changes in traffic. Constantly scan the road ahead and be prepared for any unexpected situations. Defensive riding can significantly reduce the risk of accidents caused by the negligence of other drivers.
- 6. **Stay Sober**: Riding under the influence of alcohol or drugs impairs your judgment and reaction time, significantly increasing the chances of accidents. Never drink and ride, and if you are on medication that may affect your ability to ride safely, avoid getting on your motorcycle.
- 7. **Ride According to Your Skill Level**: It is important to know your limits as a rider and ride within them. Gradually build your skills and confidence before attempting more challenging rides. Take professional riding courses to improve your skills and learn advanced techniques. Riding beyond your capabilities can lead to mistakes and accidents.
- 8. Be Prepared for Emergencies: No matter how cautious you are, emergencies can still happen. Always carry a first aid kit, a tool kit, and a fully charged cell phone with emergency numbers saved. Knowing basic first aid can be helpful in case of minor injuries.

By following these riding safety tips, motorcycle riders can significantly reduce the risks associated with riding. Remember, your safety should always be your top priority.

Enjoy the ride, but do so responsibly and with caution. Stay safe out there!



# **Road Wisdom**

There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge. (Noah Webster)

# **Detox that riding jacket**

By Richard Bennett



The other day I was on a day ride with some friends. We stopped for a break and one of the riders walked past me. I noticed him because he was really stinky.

The weather was hot and a little humid, so some personal odor was expected, especially from those of us who wore full riding gear. This encounter was noteworthy because of the odoriferous level.

Now my mind was racing; did I smell stinky, but no one wanted to mention it? To be fair, I had just returned from a 100+ degree ride to Big Bear and back, sweating profusely in my armored jacket. With a little investigative sniff, it was obvious my jacket had acquired some personal pheromones.

That caused me to mentally calculate; how long had I worn this jacket without cleaning it? In fact, how do I clean it? I had never thought about it before, but it had obvious dirty patches on it, and now had a noticeable smell. The collar had oily dark spots under my chin, brought on by months (years) of riding in hot, humid weather.

Maybe you have a jacket like this and wonder how to clean it and maintain the waterproofing. If so, I will tell you of my easy-breezy solution.

My first move was to read the cleaning label on the jacket. While it seemed pretty easy to "machine wash in cool water", it didn't give details about detergents or heavy soiling. I called the First Gear customer service number, where I left a message after being told "someone will call you back soon". After two days of not receiving a call back, I turned to YouTube.

There are a couple of videos on YouTube that show how to clean textile motorcycle jackets. I watched two of them, which told of detergents and cleaning methods. Both included a bath tub, lots of water and a recommendation to use Oxyclean instead of soap. No one suggested machine-washing.

To save you some time, here is the recommended cleaning method that I followed.

- Remove everything from all pockets. Double check.
- Remove the armor from jacket. Mine had pads that were attached with Velcro.
- Fill a set tub or bath tub with cool to warm water, deep enough to submerge the jacket.
- Sprinkle in two to three small cups of Oxyclean powder. Swish around until dissolved.
- Have a stiff-bristle brush handy. You will need it for heavily soiled areas.
- Submerge the jacket and let it soak in the cleaner. Let the Oxyclean work.

- Use the brush to scrub soiled areas. Notice how the water is turning black.
- Do one final hand-tumble in the water. Pull the jacket out.
- Drain the yucky water and refill with clean water. Thoroughly rinse the jacket.
- Hang the jacket in the shower and let it drain. It will be heavy and dripping.
- After about 24 hours move to outdoors for final airing and drying.

Now you have a clean jacket!

But wait. What about the water repellency? New jackets have a significant level of water resistance that you just washed away with the dirt. What to do?

Once again I called First Gear; again, no call back. I did some research. A trip to REI, the camping store helped a lot. A knowledgeable sales associate had dealt with this issue before. His advice follows.

Don't use Scotch Guard. He tried it once on a textile jacket and it was "soak city" in a rain shower. There is also Thompsons Water Seal, but it is petroleum based and leaves a noticeable odor. He recommended Nikwax.

Nikwax is water-based, and soaks into the fabric. The water dries, and the wax remains in the fabric. Special attention should be given to seams. Nikwax recommends two light sprayings with a six-hour drying time between applications. I bought some Nikwax.

I sprayed my jacket, let it dry and sprayed it again. The second coat began to bead up, indicating the water proofing had occurred with the first application. I let everything dry, and gave the jacket the sniff test again.

A fresh, clean smell inside and out. Some slight odor akin to wax, but it was almost unnoticeable. After a day ride in fresh air, the jacket had no odors, yucky or otherwise.

It should be noted that no textile riding jacket is truly 100 percent water proof, even with fabric treatment. If you want that level of dryness, wear a rain suit. But for the daily rides and short trips, a water-resistant textile jacket will do the trick.

So there you have it; an epiphany about personal hygiene and textile riding jackets. Also, a lesson in cleaning and maintenance of my First Gear jacket.

If I encounter the stinky-man again, I will tell him about Oxyclean and Nikwax.





# Blue Knights CA VI After Meeting Ride April 13th, 2024 By Michael Belluso Ride Coordinator BK CA VI



Following the General Meeting on April 13th, 2024, a handful of BK CAVI members joined up and rode through beautiful San Diego. The weather wasn't exactly San Diego famous, but that did not deter the BK members from having a great ride through some of San Diego County's more scenic areas.

Following a brief, and I mean brief with a capital B, Safety Briefing (all of today's attendees are seasoned riders) the ride began at the Broken Yolk in Pacific Beach, traveled up to the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial for a drive-by, and then traveled up through Del Mar, Rancho Santa Fe, Escondido and the Elfin Forest, ending at Double Peak Park in San Elijo Hills/San Marcos.

Double Peak Park offers a 360-degree view of San Diego County. Interestingly, none of the BK CAVI, save the ride leader, had been to this location previously and really enjoyed seeing the county from a different perspective.

The ride lasted approximately 1 1/2 hours and covered about 40 miles. Thank you to Director Richard Bennett for acting as a much appreciated Tail Gunner on the ride.



Blue Knights Chuck Belletti, Alan Cutsinger, Mike Belluso, Sistiana Chestnut, Mike Mannen, Janice Bennett, Richard Bennett

## Blue Knights represented at the Wall That Heals!

By Michael Belluso, Blue Knights CA VI Ride Coordinator Photos by Sistiana Chestnut

On Tuesday, March 19th, the Wall that Heals (WTH) traveled from Skyline Church to its display location at Wells Park in El Cajon, CA, and was on display for visitors from 3/21 - 3/24, 24 hours per day.

The WTH is a 3/4 scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC. The WTH also travels with a mobile education center that includes informative videos as well as artifacts left at the Wall in DC.

The WTH visit to El Cajon is one of Thirty-One planned stops for the year 2024. The traveling exhibit honors those that served in the US Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and displays the names of the 58,281 men and women that made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. The WTH is 100% funded by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund with the vast majority of the funding coming from private citizens.

Blue Knights CA VI Michael Belluso and Sistiana Chestnut were privileged to take part in the motorcycle escort that included over one-hundred vehicles! The WTH escort procession wound from Spring Valley to El Cajon and was a parade with hundreds, if not thousands of patriotic Americans coming out to show support by waving flags and signs.





From the Wall That Heals El Cajon Website - "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's average visitor count for their 2023 tour was 7,000 per site. The two previous tour stops in San Diego County (2013 and 2015) were not very well attended so they were not expecting much but El Cajon shattered that trend! The El Cajon tour stop March 20th -24th had just shy of TEN-THOUSAND visitors!"



Sistiana and I both volunteered at the WTH on Friday and Saturday. We felt honored to have had the opportunity to hear directly from Vietnam Veterans of their experiences and unique perspectives of the Vietnam conflict during the WTH event. The application process to host the WTH is from all accounts lengthy and involved.

Kudos to those involved in the El Cajon effort! We highly recommend visiting the WTH if you ever have the opportunity.

#### **BK News You Can Use**

#### The Town Crier



Our Chapter has once again selected Embassy Suites, La Jolla as our Christmas party venue. Member comments helped lead your Board of Directors to reserve Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> as our 2024 event date.



This is an election year for the Board of Directors, so mark you calendars now. We will install the new 2025 – 2026 Board members at this event. Watch for more information in coming editions.

#### Annual Blue Knight Grant Frye memorial ride

Saturday, August 17, 2024 has been selected for our annual Chapter ride. Alan Wheeler is once again the coordinator for this event, which starts and ends in National City. Alan has created a scenic route for our ride, and will be seeking volunteers to staff check points along the way. Watch for details.

#### Submit your Blue Knight articles to the Knightly News

The Knightly News is published monthly by Blue Knights California VI. All members are encouraged to submit articles. Articles deemed appropriate include but are not limited to: articles regarding motorcycle-oriented stories, personal travel, police functions or informational / technical topics.

As a reminder, any submissions of re-printed articles must clearly give credit to the original author. Copyrighted material must have permission of the author to be eligible. This can be remedied by writing up an outline of the article and by referencing the original author.

Articles that are deemed inappropriate for publication include and are not limited to: articles regarding controversial, personal choices, religious positions or advocacy for questionable action. Questions about material that does not fall clearly within the guidelines will be brought to the attention of the Chapter President by the Editor, for a decision of appropriateness. If necessary, the Board may review the article and make a decision to publish or not to publish.

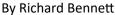
Submit articles to Editor: electrotalk2610@outlook.com

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES** 

SUNDAY WEEK AFTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## Membership and Recruiting

Moving forward is the only way to survive (John Green)





California VI members attending the Southwest Conference in 2023

The Blue Knights are not unique in one important area: recruiting and maintaining membership. Most all social clubs have the same membership challenges.

What are the challenges for Blue Knights? Here are the obvious.

#### **Qualified member pool**

We are very selective in who may be a member. Only about one in 10 applicants are qualified to be law enforcement officers. Of that population, only a small percentage are motorcycle riders. There are several motorcycle groups that cater to law enforcement members; the Blue Knights have a lot of competition.

#### Image vs. reality

Three-patch motorcycle clubs bring to mind outlaw bikers. Movies, and even some well-meaning "gang detectives", have reinforced the negative connotation of three-patch equals outlaw. Some police "advanced training" seminars have seen instructors equate Blue Knights with outlaws. Action by Blue Knights International has stifled much of the inaccurate police perception, but public opinion persists.

While the Blue Knights have made efforts to modify our vest patches, three-patch attire still prevails. Despite our Blue Knight pledge and law-abiding travels, the public doesn't know us as "the good guys".

#### Lack of exposure

Blue Knights are still a mystery to most of the population, even fellow law enforcement officers. Yes, there are Blue Knight postings on Face Book, but not everyone follows social media.

Many police agencies discourage their active-duty officers from being members of a law enforcement motorcycle club. Much of this attitude comes from other law enforcement motorcycle groups who emulate outlaw bikers in dress and demeanor. The Blue Knights are painted with the same brush as the wanna-be outlaw cops.

On top of all this, an in-depth study by the Union-Tribune newspaper recently reported that tens of thousands of people have moved out of San Diego County in the last year. That includes qualified candidates for Blue Knight membership. You probably know someone you worked with who lives in another state today.

The U-T study listed factors such as traffic, increase in homelessness, failing infrastructure, shifting local and state politics and lack of affordable housing.

While these are things that we cannot control, we must consider how to deal with the diminishing pool of qualified members. If we don't make an effort, the Blue Knights will experience a similar reduction in "population". "Moving forward is the only way to survive."

We need to do a better job of public relations. Sure, we go on rides to support causes. We donate time and money to worthwhile charities too. But still, Blue Knights are not well recognized for our family-inclusive format; something that is unique to us, and desirable in American society.

#### The challenge

Action is needed for Blue Knights to survive and thrive, especially in California. We cannot be satisfied with being a "breakfast club" or stray from the attractions that brought us in as members.

Riders primarily join motorcycle groups for common reasons; Social interactions with people they relate to, structured riding experience, frequent rides, learning new riding techniques and pride of membership. Blue Knight leadership should remember these reasons and promote them all – all the time.

Sustaining healthy memberships requires a never-ending, year-round, all-hands participation. There are no "recruiting seasons"; every day is recruiting day. For every member, not just Blue Knight leaders.

You can do this. If you are a proud member, be an ambassador for your chapter. (If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.) If there is a reason you can't be a part of the cheering squad, let your Board of Directors what they can do better.

#### Some personal recruiting ideas



When you ride, Blue Knight activity or not, watch for **potential members**. (Don't refer to them as "*Prospects*".) Make personal contact, and ask if they know about the Blue Knights. Be ready to tell them why you like being a Blue Knight. Emphasize that we are the "good guys"; we invite all family members to any event we do. That is the real difference between us and all other motorcycle clubs.

Invite them to the next Chapter membership meeting. Having a Blue Knight business card with you is important. (Blue Knight business cards are available from your Board of Directors.) Write the date, time and location of the meeting on the card. Tell them to look us up on the internet. We have a Blue Knight Facebook account as well as a Chapter website. We are well represented on both venues.

Any potential member who attends our monthly membership meeting should be personally welcomed by every member in attendance. Show the positive, inclusive tone that you appreciated when you were new. If the guest likes what he or she sees, we have membership applications available with the Vice-President.

If the adage is true that "There are no strangers in the Blue Knights, just friends you have not met yet", then let's expand our number of friends!

Richard is a 35-year member of the Blue Knights. He has served as Director, Vice President and President of CA VI. He is currently a Director and Editor of the CA VI Newsletter, Knightly News



#### FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF BK CA VI MEMBERS





### **ARTURO ROMERO**



The above items are immediately available from the Quarter Master. Contact Arturo at the monthly meetings or by email.

Arturo also has hoodies and long sleeve Tees available.

The members of Blue Knights California VI - San Diego, are honored to support the following charities. Donations are encouraged.





https://thewishesgrantedfoundation.com/

https://nextstepservicedogs.org/



https://www.finalhonor.net/

# **UPCOMING RIDES**



