

THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Blue Knights © California VI

bk-cavi.org

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SEPTEMBER 2026



The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion. (Tim Ferriss)

**MEMBERSHIP
MEETING DATE
OCTOBER 10, 2026**

Featured in
this edition



Poker Chip drawing was held. Dominic Choice, Mike Hendricks and Mike Scallan's names were drawn. Since none were present no one won the \$30.

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 \$35.



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 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

[Michael Belluso](#)

DIRECTORS

[Richard Bennett](#)

[Randy Alldredge](#)

[Arturo Romero](#)

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

[Alex Cross](#)

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

September 2026



Greetings my brothers and sisters of Blue Knights around the globe!

Well...we did it! CAL 6 had our annual picnic, and what a great day it was! This was the first time we've actually done this party, "picnic" style, at an actual bay park, and not in a home. HUGE shout out to our members who went down to the park at O-Dark-30 to secure a good spot and a shade tree for our grills and coolers and EZ Ups. The food and camaraderie were fantastic, as was the massive raffle prize table. I'd like to thank our guests from CA-X who ALWAYS come to support us and our events. I hope their trip home was a safe one, and that they got to enjoy all the prizes they won! While we had a good turn out, we had a few excused absences, and a small number of MIAs. We miss you and hope you make it to the next one. Oh, and a reminder for everyone to bring more door prizes.

One of the items we covered at our meeting/picnic was elections. As you know, and you *should*, based on the number of emails I've sent everyone, lol, every position is always up for elections. We had several spirited nominations and all positions were running unopposed. Based on our procedures and bylaws, if all positions are unopposed, then a quorum of board and attending members can vote to approve all the electees without a balloted election.

The vote was unanimous! Congratulations to the new officers who will be sworn in at this year's Christmas party: Ken Smith – President, Randy Alldredge – Vice President, Mike Wagner – Secretary, Mike Belluso – Treasurer, Richard Bennett – Director, Richard Carlson – Director, Mike Daly – Director, John Lopotosky – Immediate Past President.

It is my sincerest hope that ALL our members will continue to participate and contribute and work hard to make this board a successful one, by keeping us on the right path forward. The continued camaraderie and memorable times depend upon it!

We have so much to look forward to, and keep us all busy, right up until New Years. We have the Motor Officer event, The CA-X Poker Run, November Knights, Veterans Day ride, the holiday season and our lovely Christmas party. If we are going to try and save money and move the party to a new location, we need to have that decision made by January before another deposit is due on our current location. Get those ideas and cost quotes to your board as soon as possible!

With everything going on, I don't want us to lose sight of those members who might be going through hard times. We always need to be there for our brother and sister Blue Knights. If you become aware of a member in need of comfort, support or anything we can do, please let a board member know. We can get that info up the chain, and help get their boots back on the ground. My heart and prayers go out to a very special member who needs all our prayers. Hang in there brother, we are with you.

I look forward to all we have planned, and experiencing it with the best Blue Knight members anywhere. Stay safe and until then, as always, Ride With Pride!

Ken



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Mike Wagner, Secretary

**September 12, 2026
MEETING MINUTES**



Call to Order: President Ken Smith called the meeting to order at 10:15 hours at the annual picnic located at De Anza Cove Park located at 3000 N. Mission Bay Drive, San Diego, CA

Pledge of Allegiance led by Randy Alldredge

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

Prayer given by Randy Alldredge

Introductions/Guests: Ken Smith welcomed all members and thanked CAL X guests for attending. President Martin Cuesta, Sal Quezada, Rosa Diaz, Frances Quezada, Pedro Rios and Letty Rios. Martin Cuesta informed everyone about the 29th Annual Poker Run to be held on October 24, 2026, at the Coyne Powersports located at 2351 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA. 92243.

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 - Present

1. Welcomed members and guests (CAL X Members), new member query online.
2. Nominations for Chapter officers (even years)
3. Raffle Tix. Sell all the raffle tix by November.
4. Begin chapter member renewal campaign.
5. October CAL X Poker Run, Nov. Veterans Ride, Nov. Knights, Xmas Party (new location next year?) Need to have a decision made by January. Members with any ideas need to send them to Randy Alldredge and they will be discussed.

Vice President Ray Juanengo - Not Present (EXCUSED)

1. Nominated our current chaplain, Randy Alldredge for the Vice President position.

Secretary Mike Wagner - Present

1. Club Coin. Informed the membership since the club has a new club patch; why not develop a new club coin. We can use the club patch on one side and need a design for the back side.
Action: Develop artwork then send it to Randy and he will contact John Lopotosky.

Treasurer Mike Belluso - Present

Treasurer Report given to membership.

Immediate Past-President John Lopotosky - Not Present (EXCUSED)

Chapter Directors:

Director and News Editor Richard Bennett - Present

1. Encouraged more people to read the monthly Newsletter. Recommended reading "News You Can Use" section this month.
2. Informed everyone he has a bag of long sleeve t-shirts. Anyone can take something they like.

Director Randy Alldredge - Present

Ken thanked Randy, Alex, Wend and Richard for setting up and preparing the picnic site.

Director Emeritus Bill Crow - Not Present

Director Arturo Romero - Present

Staff:

Quarter Master Alex Cross - Present

Ride Coordinator Michael Belluso - (Randy temporarily filling this position)

Safety Officer Mike Manen - Not Present (EXCUSED)

Morale & Welfare Coordinator Michelle Juanengo - Not Present

Greeter/Raffle Sales/Welfare Coordinator Tina Lopotosky - Not Present

SWC Vice Chair West Update - Ken Smith

Poker Chip Drawing: \$30.00 1st: Dominic Choice NP, 2nd Mike Hendricks NP 3rd Mike Scallan NP. Drawing amount increases to \$35.00

50-25-25 Winners: \$45.00 each: First: Korey Widdop-Cross Second: Richard Bennett

Good of the Order: Mike Harrison informed everyone about American Legion Post 460 hosting their Annual Rider Pig Roast on September 19, 2026. Rick Carlson passed around Sign-Up Sheets for SDPD assisting motorcycle competition to be held on September 18-19, 2026, at Sea

World.

Nominations for Chapter Officers

President Ken Smith 1st Motion: Randy Alldredge 2nd Motion: Richard Bennett

Vice President: Randy Alldredge 1st Motion: Ray Juanengo 2nd Motion: Mike Daly

Secretary: Mike Wagner 1st Motion: Ken Smith 2nd Motion: Miguel Martinez

Treasurer: Mike Belluso 1st Motion: Ken Smith 2nd Motion: Alex Cross

First Director: Richard Bennett 1st Motion: Ken Smith 2nd Motion: Randy Alldredge

2nd Director: Mike Daly 1st Motion: Richard Bennett 2nd Motion: Randy Alldredge

3rd Director: Rick Carlson 1st Motion: Randy Alldredge 2nd Motion: Richard Bennett

Immediate Past President: John Lopotosky 1st Motion: Randy Alldredge 2nd Motion: Ken Smith

Note: Other club Staff positions will be made by the Board of Directors. There was a quorum present in addition to the general membership. 1st Motion made by Miguel Martinez and 2nd Motion made by Richard Bennett for a vote to be taken on the selection of Chapter Officers

The voting was All in Favor – Unanimous No Nays or Abstentions. New officers will be sworn in at the December Christmas Party - Business meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:18 hours. Picnic barbecue served.

Next General Meeting: On October 10, 2026. The meeting will start at 0900 at the Broken Yolk Restaurant, located at 1851 Garnet Avenue, San Diego, CA. 92109



SAFETY MESSAGE

Mike Manen, Safety Officer



FOOTWEAR

This month I'm going back to the basics, a good foundation for safely riding a motorcycle. Speaking of foundations, we will start with riding shoes.

I was surprised as any one that crocs, flip flops, and high heels did not make the list of acceptable footwear. But if you own a pair of crocs you probaly don't own a motorcycle anyway.

Boots are the gold standard for riding due to ankle, toe and heel protection. Most boots also have oil resistant non-slip soles. The higher ankle protection also protects against exhaust burns.

Another option is riding sneakers, which are lighter and more breathable than boots, provided they are made for riding, with reinforced toe box and ankle padding.

Another "fashion don't" are casual sneakers and running shoes; both offer very little protection. Think of it this way: if you wouldn't wear them to climb a ladder or operate heavy equipment, they're not suitable for a motorcycle.



NO



Yes



Definite NO



Blue Knights Picnic Meeting

By Richard Bennett

Business by the Bay



For the first time in years, our Chapter held a real picnic on our September meeting date. The event happened at De Anza Cove Park in San Diego on a Saturday morning.

This September membership meeting was one of the most important events of the year. Every two years candidates for the next term of Chapter Board of Directors are identified. This was *that* year. Combining the meeting with the annual picnic made the event special.

Dedicated members arrived early to secure a desired picnic site. Even before dawn, other park users were showing up for the same purpose. The San Diego Low Riders were holding a monthly event next to our picnic site, and a 5K foot race Start / Finish line was on the sidewalk going past our location. With all that activity, we were still able to get our desired location under a large tree on the grass and near the water.

Pop-up tents, tables and chairs were set up next to the barbecue area. Early arrivals enjoyed snacks and cold drinks, and then the official meeting began shortly after 10 AM. Brothers and sisters from Blue Knights CA X arrived to join us, bringing gifts and side-dish items for the picnic.

President Ken Smith and his wife Patti had just returned from a ten-day vacation in Hawaii the day before the picnic-meeting. Despite their still being on Hawaii time, they brought an amazing array of door prize items, and Ken cooked his famous Barbecue Beans, right there on site.

Ken led the meeting, where we began with a salute to an American flag located across the bay. Secretary Mike Wagner took detailed notes of the meeting, which you can read in his section of the Knightly News.

As mentioned, the September meeting is designated for identifying candidates for all positions on the Chapter Board of Directors for the next term. Nominations were made and seconded for the following positions: President, Ken Smith; Vice-president, Randy Alldredge; Secretary, Michael Wagner, Treasurer, Mike Belluso; Directors: Richard Bennett, Rick Carlson, Mike Daly.

Having a full slate of nominees, and no challengers, President Smith called for a vote of those present to certify the positions as listed. A unanimous vote followed. Elected Board of Directors will be sworn in at the December Christmas party - monthly meeting on December 12, 2026 at the Embassy Suites in La Jolla, California.

A picnic feast followed the meeting. Randy and Michelle Alldredge and Ken Smith were the picnic cooks. Hamburgers, Kosher hot dogs and some kind of weenie wraps were grilled and consumed. A plethora of side dishes were set out, offering a vast number of choices.

By 2PM, appetites satisfied, chapter business completed, visits with brothers and sisters concluded, the event was ended. The sunny skies, blue water, and grass picnic area caused members to suggest next year's picnic again be scheduled at the beach.

A note of recognition and special thanks to the core number of your chapter members who made this event happen.

This is no ordinary membership meeting. It requires the most advanced planning, preparation and execution of the year. Core members had to find a suitable location, identify logistical needs, assign responsibilities, gather equipment, shop for food and beverages, prepare in advance for a before-dawn arrival at the location, transport everything to the beach and set up the site before members arrived.

After the picnic, the same core members had to pack up everything (thank you to all who helped load the trucks), unload and clean everything at home and put things back for the next time they are needed. They do all this so our members can spend some time together, get some business done and enjoy comradery on a summer day at the beach. Those of you who attended know what I mean; You made all the work seem worthwhile.

To members who did not attend, I hope you will mark your calendars for the next Chapter picnic - business meeting: September 11, 2027.

My thanks to Ken and Patti Smith, Randy and Michelle Alldredge, Alex, Wendy and Kory Cross for joining me at the crack of dawn. We could not have done this without you!



Alex Cross, Janice Bennett, Ken Smith and Randy Alldredge



Alex, Ken, Janice and Michelle Alldredge



Kaz Wagner, Wendy Cross, Alldredges



Mike Daly and Aaron Roberts



Mike Harrison and Mike Wagner

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



If anyone were to describe the life of Brian Duncan, the most frequent response would be "joiner and participant".

Since his early years in Washington state, Brian has continually sought ways to enhance his life, and by extension, the lives of others around him. Never one to sit still, he moved from one life experience to another, always excelling at whatever he did.

As a teenager, Brian was active in sports. In High School he participated in track, wrestling and football. He was a valuable member of the Walla Walla Washington High School football team, the Blue Devils, where he played Full Back, Half Back, Defensive Back, and was the fastest on the field. He was once celebrated for returning a kick-off by the other team for a touchdown. Brian says High School sports gave him a place to compete, work with team mates and build discipline during his teenage years. He was awarded the Sportsmanship Brown Trophy at his high school graduation.



Brian is number 13 behind quarterback

Brian developed his work ethic by working at Melcher-Ray Machinery Company while still in High School. The company was owned by his grandfather, W. D. Ray, who taught him responsibility, hard work and supporting the family business.



Brian sat in 2nd row next to engine

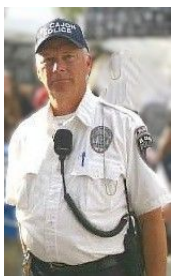
After graduation from high school, Brian briefly attended Columbia Basin Junior College before joining the U.S. Navy. He attended Boot Camp in San Diego, then to "A" School in Tennessee, where he became an Aviation Anti-submarine Warfare Technician and air crewman. He was sent back to San Diego Naval Station, North Island and assigned to Squadron VS 23. While assigned to VS 23 his squadron was deployed to Westpac on board the USS Yorktown, where he was deployed to various locations, mainly the Vietnam conflict.

After his discharge from the Navy, Brian worked six years for Dynair Electronics doing technical writing, advertising, public relations and trade shows throughout the country. However, Brian's true calling came when he was hired by San Diego Municipal Court where he stayed for 28 years. Brian worked various jobs, including clerking for Judge Ken Johns. He was promoted to supervisor in charge of Criminal Division for several years. He then moved to finance where he was the Administrative Services Manager, which is responsible for the financial operation of the court.



Navy career

During his time as Admin Manager, Brian established a collection agency within the Municipal Court to collect unpaid fines. When the Municipal and Superior Courts consolidated in 1999, Brian was asked to establish an accounts-payable system, which paid all the court's bills for the last three years of his career.



El Cajon RSVP

After his retirement in 2002 Brian wanted more from life than playing golf. He volunteered for El Cajon RSVP (Retired Service Volunteer Patrol) which he did for 12 years. During that time, it was suggested by an El Cajon Police Officer that Brian become a Reserve law enforcement officer.

Brian attended the Reserve Police Academy at Grossmont College, graduating in April of 2018. Brian says one of his proudest moments was completing the Reserve Academy at age 70.

After graduating, Brian was hired in November of 2018 as a Level II Reserve Deputy Sheriff for San Diego County. Reserve Deputies are required to volunteer 96 hours a year to the program, and in 2022 Brian had accumulated over 500 hours, earning him the Golden Handcuffs award. As of this date in 2026, Brian has accumulated more than 2000 hours of service.



Brian is 2nd row, third from left

Brian's current assignment with the SDSO Reserves is Training Coordinator for the Sheriff Reserves, a position he has held since 2024. This year Brian was awarded the SDSO Reserve Volunteer of the Year, which was presented during a ceremony at the Board of Supervisors Office.

Brian's golf experience has led him to volunteer at various golf tournaments throughout the country. Some examples are 25 years with Torrey Pines PGA, where he is currently the Caddy Master; LGPA Kia tournaments, NCAA men and women's tournaments at La Costa, US Women's amateur and senior open at San Diego Country Club. He worked both U.S. Opens, once as a walking Marshal for Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods; the second time he was co-chair of the Marshal's Committee.

If that were not enough, Brian is also a member of American Legion Riders, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Elks, National Rifle Association, Old Mission Beach Athletic Club (OMBAC) and Blue Knights, California VI.

Brian Duncan was invited to join 80 other Veterans on the annual Honor Flight to Washington DC on September 25, 2026. Veterans from various wars are transported free of charge to Washington, where they are honored for their service. Homecoming is always a major event, with large crowds greeting their arrival.

Some fun facts about Brian: He has been a member of OMBAC since 1981, serving as Chief of Security until being moved to Announcer this year. *(That's right; Brian is "That Guy" who reads team names on the PA.)*

He has the nick name "Judge" from the days he worked with the San Diego Superior Court. The title is honorary, and was given to him by fellow OMBAC members.

Brian hosted International Blue Knight President Rus Harper and his wife at his home after the June 2026 Southwest Conference in San Diego.

Brian says he joined the Blue Knights after watching Blue Knight members attend American Legion rides. He was impressed with the Blue Knight attire and outgoing nature of the members. He decided to join after talking with Mike Wagner, Ken Smith and Alan Wheeler.

Spend some time with Brian and you will see he makes you feel comfortable in his presence. His dry sense of humor belies his vast life experience. He is humble and thoughtful; And he is there when you need him.

He is a Blue Knight.



Brian Duncan, Blue Knight



BK News You Can Use

The Town Crier

Rus Harper speaks

Long, but worth reading



In July 2026 the Blue Knights International Board of Governors held their meeting in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The Board of Governors consists of Chapter presidents from all Blue Knight areas world-wide.

The meeting minutes are 46 pages long. International Blue Knight President Rus Harper addressed the Board and touched on many subjects. His full speech to the Board of Governors is presented to you here.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: International President Russel Harper

Russ Harper: I'll have my back to you guys. Thank you, Mark. First off, to everybody in the room, it's an honor and a privilege for me to serve as your International President. As your International President, I know and I always realize that I represent all of you in this room, and all of our other countries too throughout the world. That is my job to represent you as best to my ability and move our club forward - no sense of us going backwards, let's move forward.

So, we have issues that we have to deal with on a regular basis. Trust me, my days are very busy. I get phone calls, sometimes 11 at night, sometimes 2 o'clock in the morning. Emails on holidays, phone calls on holidays, it's never ending - it's nonstop. I see that I've got 3 past International Presidents in the room. I'm sure they can attest to what it feels like. DJ, I have Ellen and Gary Pierce and Dave Mulford. I think Dave Mulford's in the room too, right? So, they know what this position entails.

Theresa Hartey: And Guy O'Connor

Russ Harper: And Guy O'Connor, I'm sorry. And Guy O'Connor, we got a lot of past international presidents here - I can leave, thank you. (Laughter)

No, all kidding aside, it's a lot of work. There's a lot of issues going on in the club - Nothing that can't be solved, nothing that can't be worked out, but we need to work together as brothers and sisters.

We need to realize that there's more to this club than bickering and in-house fighting. We need to realize what the club was formed for. We formed for law enforcement officers, the people who bleed blue blood to be able to get together, socialize and have a good time and ride our motorcycles. We're not here to bicker. We're not here to in-house fight. If you can't play in the sandbox, then go to another sandbox, but try to get along.

I want to thank Roger and Alberta V for all their hard work in putting this international convention together. Roger, I know you're in the room, but I'm looking around for you. You've been amazing, thank you. And we all appreciate it - it's not an easy job to do this, I realize that.

Mark Howard, the Board of Governor Chairman, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak at your meeting. I want to thank my international conference executive board. Thank you very much - I've got a lot of support. My executive board has been outstanding, and it's been a rock for me to be able to lean on them as we move forward. I also want to thank the past international presidents for all their efforts and what they do

for our club. And I want to thank my international board of directors, all the reps and the Board of Governor Chairman. If it wasn't for you folks, this club, we need to have the business end of it gets taken care of. Don't look so mean - come on, you're scaring me. (laughter)

Also, I would be remiss if I didn't thank our International Office Manager, Jana Clark. She's outside the door, but she works hard every day, as we all know. Everybody contacts her on a daily basis it seems like so it's hard for her to get her work done. So, I ask you, try to get your members to go through the president and let the president contact Jana. Try to work things out, she's very amicable. She answers everybody's phone calls so she gets back to people, but it's hard. Think about it, one person up in that office and we have close to 14,000 members you know and if people just feel free to keep constantly calling her, it's hard to get the work done up there. So, try to have some specific reason if you've gotta call. Try to work it out with your chapter president first. If you can't, then you always got your conference board, your conference executives and then go up the ladder and get it taken care of. And I appreciate that and I'm sure she'll appreciate that.

Lastly, I'd be remiss if I didn't thank all of you, the chapter presidents. You guys have probably the best job, hardest job in our organization. Keeping our chapters together is what it's all about, that's the foundation for our club. We need to realize that what happens in a chapter affects our retention, affects our ability to add new members for recruitment. It's what we do within the chapter. Try to find a happy medium for everybody in your chapter. If you have some younger members, do things for the younger members. If you have some older members - I know we don't have too many older members in our chapters, but if we do, you know, find things for them to do - make them welcome, make them want to be there, make it so that it's a fun time for everybody and if you do that, the chapters are going to thrive. You're going to gain new members and we're going to continue to thrive as an organization and continue to remain the best law enforcement motorcycle club and the largest law enforcement motorcycle club in the world. And the only way we can do that is right here at the chapter level.

We need to make it where the people that are around us want to come to the meetings, want to enjoy, break bread and socialize together - That's what it was all about. That's what our founders founded us for in 1974 and that's what I want to see us get back to and continue going forward. I've got square shoulders; I'll try to take down as much as I can as your International President and fix any errors we have in our bylaws and the running of the ship. That's my job, you guys and ladies, the running of the ship is your chapters. Please work hard - if the chapters thrive, our club is going to thrive.

I'd be remiss if I didn't tell you what I've been doing to help our club and also what's been going on with our club. One of the major issues I've found since I've taken over, and I've been doing a lot of traveling. Those of you that follow me once in a while, I don't post a lot. But when I do post, you know, I try to post everything positive and what I'm doing at these events. As I've been traveling around, I've been listening, I've been hearing, and I've been getting ideas from everybody in all areas of the globe of what they like and dislike in our club. You can't fix everything in one week or in one year.

Over the course of my first year, one of the things I took on was we all know we've had a large depletion in membership over the last 10 to 12 years. We went from 21,000+ to now we're down to struggling to get 14,000.

So, the reason - it's happened over time, what do we do to fix it? Let's not worry about what we've lost, let's fix what we've got to do to make it better. We need to get retention, we need to get new members and we need to grow again. The reason we need to do that is very simple - it's affected our ability to run this organization.

It had been a while since I sat on the international budget committee, but I did this time around. And doing the budget – Brian Arnold here in the room? Brian's done a phenomenal job as our new international treasurer - it's not an easy job, think about it.

We've lost 8,000 members of revenue as income or source of income revenue to run our organization. What has that done? We haven't raised the dues in all this time. Unfortunately, we haven't kept up with the times. Things have changed, everything's getting more expensive. The paper at the office, the replacing of the old equipment, the staff - everything.

So, one of the major things I had to take on right away was where can we cut it? Because there was no way to balance the budget with what we had for revenue coming in as to what we had to put out to run the organization - So we looked long and hard at it and unfortunately, and it was a very tough decision to make, was we had to reduce the staff up in the international office. We had two full-time employees and by reducing the staff down to one full-time, which is Jana, the office manager and then we have part-time one as needed a couple of days a week. It was able to get us to be able to pass the budget for this year and be able to function and continue on.

But it was obvious to me that going forward, and John probably can attest this too as Brian can because they were both in this position - to get this budget and to balance this next time coming around, it's pretty much going to be damn near impossible if we didn't do a dues increase.

So that's why I had a committee formed of most of the executive board to look into it and see where the proper thing to do to try to get us to move forward without going crazy. Brian put a lot of time and effort into working the numbers to make a presentation that would make an educated decision on whether we should or shouldn't raise the dues and the committee recommended that we do this \$5 dues increment and \$1 per year for the next 5 years thereafter.

So, we're talking \$10 over the course of 6 years, not a lot of money in my opinion. We're paying \$25 a year now. We increase it to \$30 and then \$1 a year thereafter until we get up to \$35 and we can always look at that two years from now if things change. If we have a disaster up at our headquarters, because our building is getting old and a lot of things are happening - DJ can attest to the fact that we're running out of money in the headquarters association funds. So eventually that's going to fall onto us in the international board of directors and the international club to sustain how we maintain that building - so that's going to be an increment coming down in the future.

I wanted to take it on now rather than kick this can down to the next future president, because I just don't feel we should do that. I think that we need to address things now - it's a situation unfortunately I know a lot of us don't want to hear; there's going to be a raise, but a lot of us in this room are like me. I belong to many organizations and this is the best bang for the buck I get. \$25 to be a member of the International Blue Knight's Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club - what a privilege - that alone to me is worth \$25. I get to meet everybody; I get to meet people all over the world - that's what we all need to do;

socialize and meet - that's what we're all about. Don't worry about the \$25 going up to 30.

You know, like I said, I'm in a lot of organizations. I'm in the International Chiefs Association, I'm in the Fraternal Order of Police, all of them I pay anywhere between \$75 and \$150 a year for dues. We're doing 25 going up to 30 - to me it's not a big deal. I hope everybody will support that tomorrow, I'm sorry, today, this afternoon in the general membership meeting and that will make it a lot easier for us to try to work for next year's budget and make it a little easier for Brian to sharpen his pen and get a budget out there that we can work with for next year.

With that being said, I'm sorry I went so long with that, but I think everybody needed an explanation as to why we're asking for the dues increase. There's a reason behind it and I appreciate the support if we can get that done.

The next thing I wanted to address is there's a survey right now on the international website of a committee I formed to look at our international sword and shield magazine and see what we can do or can't do to make improvements going forward in the future.

Our contract with sword and shield is going to end this year in December so I need to get negotiations going ahead of time into what we're going to do with the sword and shield going forward in the future. Kristen, I see you in the room - Kristen has stepped up and she's the CEO of the company and running things and so this committee, I've asked them to work with you and I know Mike is reaching out to you and you've had conversations. I asked Mike Fletcher to be my chairman of that committee. Neil Hallam, is he in the room? There he is, alright, Neil is on that committee - he's been a big help on that committee too. Glen Wheat's on that committee and they've been working their butts off to try to figure out what we need to do to go forward.

What I need all of you folks to do is to please reach out to your chapter members and get them on that website and get them to take the survey. Give us some kind of an idea of what you're looking for. I can tell you I've traveled all over the world representing you and I've heard all these different things, but nobody's putting it onto that survey. Give me the survey, get the numbers up there so I can see where it is so when I go to the international board of directors, we can justify what we need to think about changing here, what we need to think about changing there, because the sword and shield is an expensive part of operating our club. This costs us anywhere between 70 to 80 to \$90,000 a year, depending upon how many issues we're doing and I'm sure it's going to go up coming forward because everything else is going up in the world. Do we want to go digital; do we not want to go digital? There's some questions here and there's a space for you to give your own opinion on what you want to see so please encourage your members, every member of your chapter to get on that website and fill out that survey - you have until the end of the month, it goes until July 31st and after that, it's going to be given to the committee to look at and then make suggestions going forward and then we're going to have to negotiate with Kristen to see what we want to do going forward with the sword and shield.

Mark Howard: You're taking all my stuff that I was going to talk about.

Russ Harper: That's good, then you'll be able to, it'll be real short. Sorry. Yeah.

Mark Howard: I'll be back.

Russ Harper: One of my pet peeves, and this is coming from me and I hope a lot of you feel the same way in the room. We've had a lot of problems going on, especially on Facebook with club members putting out international politics and putting out - it's creating friction throughout our countries in our own organization that we don't need to have. My opinion is let's keep the international politics out of our club and let's deal with brothers and sisters as we are - brothers and sisters. My brother's from Belgium; my brother's from France or whatever. Sisters from Germany; sisters from Canada. We're all brothers and sisters - leave the international politics out of it.

We're all at a different pay level. We're down here, the politicians are up here and they're going to have their little thing. We can't control what they're doing so why let it come between us? Let's just remember what we're here for - we all bleed blue blood and we're all brothers and sisters in law enforcement. That's what we all have in our commonality and we want to break bread and socialize together. So, I'm just asking us all to try to stay off of it.

You'll notice when I post on Facebook, I never put out anything about politics and dealing with national politics and I don't put likes and I don't put dislikes. So, will I tell you in person how I feel? Absolutely, but I don't feel as your president I should be out there putting how I feel on national politics, or who I'm voting for. Sorry I don't, I don't mean it to be an election I'm just trying to get us to be together, I want the brotherhood. We all like to say we're a brother and sisterhood so let's get it together. Let's get it together and keep that as our forethought, number one driving force.

The other thing I've experienced a lot of unfortunately and it's been a hindrance for me to get our club moving forward as I'm dealing with a lot of old BS - Bullshit. Conflicts in the chapters, conflicts in the conferences and I've had to deal with quite a few hearings that have taken up hours and hours of the international board's time to hear these hearings. That these conflicts without getting resolved on the chapter level or that can't get on the chapter level resolve it on the conference level but to keep bringing it all the way up to the top it takes a lot of time away from us being able to concentrate on trying to what we need to do to move our club forward and then make it better.

Instead, I'm dealing with a lot of aggravation of people calling me 30, 40 times, sending me 5,000 emails about how we should do this or this guy did that to me or this guy said that and whatever - Enough! Let's get along, let's play in the sandbox - if you can't, then try to fix it or try to fix it at the chapter level. Don't let it escalate, because when it escalates, it just gets worse, then you get more hard feelings and that's one of the divisions that's going on in our club. That's why we're not retaining the members, that's why we're losing members. It's because of this inner conflict that's taking place at the chapter level, the conference level and at the international level. So, we're all in that same sandbox - I'm in that sandbox. I'm going to do my best as your representative and your international president to make sure I do my job and play in the sandbox. So, that's enough on that.

The last thing I wanted to bring up to you today is May 1st, right after May 1st I got a phone call from Mark as the Board of Governor's Chairman and he gave me the happy how-do and he said, "Russ I just hate to break this to you but unfortunately, we've had no bids for the 2028 international convention". So, when that took place, we had the

discussion and Mark said pretty much we were both in agreement it now fell on myself and the international board of directors to handle the issue of the 2028 international convention because as per the rules, any bids would have to have been in by May 1st.

So, the ball is now in our court - the international board to decide what we're going to do for 2028. So, I'm going to be bringing it up to my board tomorrow morning in our board of director's meeting. We did have 2 that were possibly interested that never got a package together for me, and I asked them to try to get it to me by June 18th and these were 2 that Mark had been discussing with. Unfortunately, I haven't had anything presented to me. But I did have 2 chapters in Florida that have recently put a package together for me and I'm going to put that before the board tomorrow and they're willing to step up to the plate and do something for 2028.

Going forward, it's going to be my goal as your International President to work hard with the Board of Governor's Chairman so we don't have this happening anymore in the future. We need to get it where it used to be - 3 or 4 chapters from different areas all over the place putting in a bid and we, you guys the presidents can make the decision as to where we're going to go. Because that's what would have happened today if we had a bid, it would have been up to you guys to make the decision - not myself and my board of directors. Unfortunately, now or fortunately it can go either way, it's up to us now - so just to ease everybody's mind. As far as I know, we've had no proposals other than the 1 I got put together down in Florida, and I'm going to have them make a presentation to the board of directors on Tuesday, and then the board of directors can decide which way we're going to go and now we're going to go with it. Other than that, I think I've pretty much touched base on everything.

Let me just close with getting not serious and letting you know the fun side of me likes to have fun, and I enjoy going to these conferences and representing all of you and I've met many people thanks to this Blue Knights. It's been a pleasure to travel around, I just was lucky enough to attend the European Conference over in Italy, and I was treated like royalty - the Italian chapters went just above and beyond. I landed here in Alberta; Roger got a brand-new Harley for me to ride - I think it had 12,000 kilometers on it.

Roger Nobert: 12

Russ Harper: It was like right - ugh 12 kilometers, sorry. Yeah, you know what I meant. It was right off the showroom floor - I mean, it doesn't get any better.

It's my pleasure, and if I'm not representing the way you want to be represented, please let me know, but my job right now as I see it is to move us forward, continue making changes. I've got my bylaw committee working on, I know there's issues with the bylaws, issues with updating the motions book and things like that. I got it all getting worked on behind the scenes, but it's going to take time. There's a lot of years catching up to do and then getting us going forward. With that, thank you very much. I'm sorry I took so long, but I feel you need to know what I'm doing as your president, and you got a right to know, so feel free anytime to reach me. I'll be here all week, and I'd love to have conversations with you. Thank you.



Blue Knights®SWC friends

Mark Beluscak

(Reprinted from Blue Knights Facebook)

Chairman, SWC Board of Directors



We always talk a lot about growth in our club and I've been saying this for a while now. Effective and sustained recruitment isn't about one-off gimmicks or changing our culture and rules to increase numbers.

Effective, sustained recruitment is about being out and seen at places and motorcycle events that are police supporting or police friendly and making connections with our people at these events.

Case in point - a few weeks back a member of a Colorado chapter rode down to Pueblo to support Colorado II at one of their events. On his way down he met a police officer who rides. This officer saw one of his memorial patches and he knew the officer. This past week I am happy to say that this conversation and connection turned into a new member for Colorado II.

Our brand is strong. We aren't trying to imitate anyone else's culture, much less the larger MC culture, or be something people saw on a biker related television show. We are law enforcement officers who ride. We are the club that won't land you in internal affairs or make your IA case worse based on pictures of your patches. We serve our communities and our members. Our symbol, the Blue Knight, is emblematic of our philosophy of service WITHIN the community, not a desire to threaten it, be separate from it, punish it, or rule over it.

Y'all need to get out there and ride, make connections, and support our community. I would rather grow by attraction rather than promotion. I would rather ride with people who are truly Blue Knights, rather than wannabe 1% ers who ride wearing our colors. I would rather ride with people who are willing to do what is right for the club, rather than what they need to support their own ego.

One final thought, leave your drama at home or at your agency. No one wants to join a bitchy old men's social club that sells stuff (but if you want to buy a cool old west Marshalls badge or pin, we got 'em). They want to join the club that rides with their brothers and sisters.

Be proud of our long-established history and club culture.

Be proud of who we are and be strong in the knowledge that our TRUE law enforcement brotherhood and sisterhood is the key to our growth.

Ride with much pride my brothers and sisters and I hope to see you all out on the road.

-Mark Beluscak

-Your brother in Colorado and the Southwest Conference who likes to ride.

"I got a title but titles don't mean \$#!"



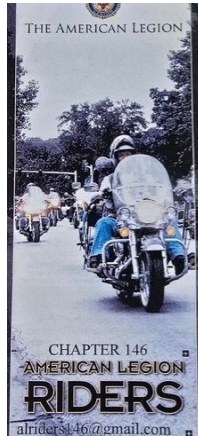
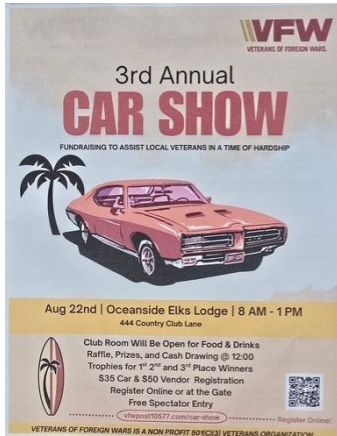
BK Secretary helps American Legion Post 146

Third Annual Car Show Event

Story and photos by Michael Wagner, CA VI



Our chapter Secretary volunteered to assist American Legion Post 146 with a week end car show and recruitment event. Mike Wagner is a member of American Legion Post 146, and an American Legion Rider.



On August 22, 2026, I manned a recruiting booth for American Legion Post 146, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars 3rd Annual Car Show located at Oceanside Elks Lodge. This was a fundraising event to assist local veterans in a time of hardship. The event started at 0800 am and ended at 1:00 pm.

The recruiting booth was manned by Commander Rob Creasy, son Brady, 1st Vice Commander Sam Brookins, Ann Hall Auxiliary and me, a Rider for Post 146.

I arrived about 08:00 am and was surprised to see hundreds of vehicles staged in the parking lot. These vehicles are classics that have been restored by their owners and are displayed throughout the year at various events.



I had the opportunity to walk around the parking lot looking at some amazing and beautiful vehicles. There was a 1932 Ford Hot Rod, 1937 Ford Sedan, several Ford Mustangs and so many other Makes and Models on display. In addition to cars on display there were vintage trucks too.

Throughout the morning people were buying raffle tickets for cash, baskets and other items. During the event people had the opportunity to buy hamburgers, hotdogs and get a cold beverage at the bar located inside the lodge.



Ann Hall Auxiliary, Sam Brookins 1st Vice Cmdr, Mike



Blue Knight Member Mike Wagner again joins Home for our Troops to help a disabled Army Veteran

On September 11, 2026, I had the honor and privilege to volunteer and assist with landscaping the home of disabled Army Veteran Seth Wakeling. Even though this day marked the solemn 25th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, with the nation honoring the nearly 3,000 lives lost and the heroic first responders, there were over 100 volunteers who came together to landscape the home of Army Specialist Seth Wakeling, his wife Adriana, and their three boys, Jeremiah, Isaac, and Benjamin.



Wakeling home



BK Mike Wagner with Wakeling family

Home for Our Troops shared the following about Seth: “Inspired to serve his country, Seth enlisted in the Army in 2012. On September 26, 2013, Specialist (SPC) Wakeling was serving as a combat engineer with Alpha Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division in Afghanistan, when he stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED) resulting in severe injuries to his left leg and traumatic brain injury (TBI).”

The 100 volunteers started landscaping the 2800 square foot Fallbrook home at 9:00 am and finished at 10:15 am. This is the third landscaping event I have participated in, and it was the fastest time from start to finish.

I had the opportunity to talk to Scott Youngren, the owner of Youngren Construction, a family-owned business. He said this was the 41st home he has built in California. I also learned from Scott, disabled veterans select the location of their new home.



Seth Wakeling addresses volunteers

In closing, this was another touching and inspiring event for me. We have the responsibility to take care of our Veterans. They sacrifice so much for us; especially the Veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice so we can enjoy the freedoms and privileges of everyday life.

Mike Wagner, Secretary

Editors note: Blue Knight Mike Wagner, himself a military Veteran, devotes much of his time to supporting disabled Veterans in San Diego County. Homes for Our Troops is a nation-wide foundation providing cost-free homes for disabled Veterans. Volunteers provide assistance for final landscaping, leading to a "Key Ceremony" where the family is presented with keys to the home. If you would like to assist, let Mike Wagner know at our membership meetings; he and the Homes for Our Troops will be grateful for your help.

Ya' Feelin' Lucky?



Opportunity tickets being sold now!
**(If you are a Blue Knight,
are you selling your tickets?)**

You can't win if you don't play!
Tickets \$10 donation.
Tickets are being sold by CA VI members.

First Prize: \$1,000

Second Prize: \$500

Third Prize: \$250



Only 500 tickets will be sold

Winning tickets will be drawn on Saturday, December 12, 2026 at the monthly meeting and Christmas Party. Winners will be notified immediately.

Proceeds from the drawing will go to selected charities (See our Charities page)

Tickets available from Jennifer Wade, Drawing manager. **619-518-1569**

Or by email: divajen.ca@gmail.com

Increase your chances; the more you buy, the better your odds!



CHAPLAINS CORNER

by Randy Alldredge

September 2026 Prayer



Heavenly Father we come before you this month with hearts that sometimes grow tired and discouraged. Forgive us for the prayers we have abandoned and have stopped bringing before your Throne. Lord, renew or persistence in intercession. Fill us with enduring faith that trusts in Your perfect timing, even when answers seem delayed.

Help us to pray without ceasing, knowing that You hear every word and honor every faithful cry. Strengthen our resolve to keep knocking until You open the door.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

We don't always get immediate answers to our prayers, which sometimes discourages us from continuing to pray for His guidance. Know this, Jesus hears all our prayers. He has a plan. Trust Him and trust His plan!!

God Bless each and every one of us!

Note: If anyone needs special prayer, please email me at ran5150@yahoo.com so I can add you to my prayer list. All prayer requests are confidential.



FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF BK CA VI MEMBERS



ALEX CROSS



\$45



\$10



\$45



\$10



\$10



\$10



\$5



\$10



\$10

The above items are immediately available from the Quarter Master. Contact Alex at the monthly meetings or by email. www.arcx3@cox.net -OR- (760) 420-8240

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

FRIDAY, WEEK AFTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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/>



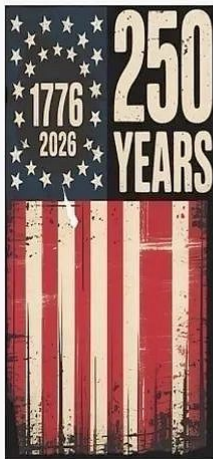
www.sdpolicemuseum.com



San Diego Police Widows and Orphans Fund

www.sdpoa.org

UPCOMING RIDES



29th Annual Poker Run OCTOBER 24, 2026

High Hand \$200

Low Hand \$100

Registration 08:00-10:00 at the:

COYNE POWERSPORTS

2351 South 4th Street, El Centro, Ca 92243

Single \$30, Double \$40, Extra Hand \$10

Good Food, Raffles and Good Times with Friends. Everyone is welcome.

RIDE WITH PRIDE !



Poker Run
Registration

Blue Knights CA X, P.O. Box 646, El Centro, Ca. 92244

For Information contact: BLUEKNIGHTSCA_X@YAHOO.COM



Donation