



MASONIC MOTORCYCLE CLUB INTERNATIONAL® INC.



RIDER'S DIGEST

Available Online at www.masonicmotorcycleclub.org

"Ride With Discretion"

SPRING 2012

Cortland promises to be a "Fun Time"... From Connie Dorney, one of the "good times" organizers of this year's Annual Conference. The Conference Committee is working very hard to make sure everyone has a very exciting time this year in Cortland, NY. Currently we are planning a bike ride to Corning, NY on Tuesday. There you will be able to visit the Corning Museum of Glass or just stroll the majestic and historical village with tons of shopping opportunities. On Wednesday we will be going to Cooperstown, NY. We will be parking in one lot and taking the trolley into town. You will find the Baseball Hall of Fame there (tickets paid for on registration form). In addition there is a working farm or an art museum that you can visit at an additional cost. There is also a lot of shopping in town.

For those who come in early we are offering the opportunity to take advantage of the Wine Tour starting with Monday and running through Thursday. We will be visiting six wineries and one brewery. The fee for the tour will include your transportation, a box lunch and all tasting fees. (See registration form to sign up)

Throughout the Conference you will be able to visit the Hospitality Room and take part in something completely new, a Farkel tournament!! Don't worry if you don't know how to play, it will all be explained, so make sure you ask about it at registration in the Hospitality Room.

Girls - this year we are offering Ladies tank tops so don't miss out!!!!

Our focus this year is going to be on fellowship, so plan on LOTS of fun and fellowship. Everyone will have a name tag this year and we are requesting that you wear them for the entire conference and seek out members you don't know and get to know them.

We are still working on visiting some of the local lodges and a local ride for Thursday. Also being worked on is a bike show.

Don't forget that the original registration form has the wrong phone number for the hotel. The correct number is 1-607-756-4431. We only have 5 registrations so far so don't forget to get yours in. The deadline is July 1st. Don't forget Wine Tour sign up is first come first served and **space is limited**.

Anyone who has any questions on the conference or the area please don't hesitate to call or e-mail the conference co-chairs.

Dean Gonya, cell phone - (570) 447-7507, email dirtg46@yahoo.com
Kent Dorney, phone - (716) 694-1595, e-mail fltmedic@verizon.net

News from the DBF Committee... Reported from Dick Morse, chairman of the Death Benefit Fund Committee. The MMCI Death Benefit Fund (DBF) was created in 2001 to assist the spouses and immediate family members should an active MMCI Member pass away. It is not a guaranteed benefit of MMCI membership, and only exists as long as the DBF has sufficient monies to cover any reported deaths. In 2009 the DBF passed a certain threshold and the death benefit paid was raised to \$400 for a natural or accidental death and \$800 for a motorcycle-related or accidental death during the attendance at a motorcycle event sanctioned or sponsored by the Masonic Motorcycle Club International, Inc. Because of recent payouts and a reduction in the donations to the DBF, the amount available in death benefits has dropped below the threshold reached in 2009. Therefore, the DBF Committee, by a unanimous vote, has returned the payout to the original benefits. Payments to the spouse or immediate family shall be \$200 after proof of accidental or natural death, and \$400 after proof of a motorcycle related death or accidental death during the attendance of any motorcycle event, sanctioned or sponsored by the Masonic Motorcycle Club International Inc. This change shall be effective February 25, 2012.

Next MMCI Executive Board Meeting – Saturday, May 19, 2012
4:00 – 6:00 PM in the Conference Room at the Ramada Inn, Cortland, NY 607-756-4431

MASONIC MOTORCYCLE CLUB INTERNATIONAL ® INC.
Executive Board, 2011 – 2013

Elected Officers

President: Kenneth White

1621 Independence Ave North
Golden Valley, MN 55427

763-545-0491

mmci24.1@gmail.com

Vice-president: Ronald Ferraro

31087 Indian Mission Road
Millsboro, DE 19966

302-947-4625

ronpferraro@yahoo.com

Secretary: Jeff Kaplan

2417 Elmdale Road
University Heights, OH 44118

216-382-2685

bmw_jeff@ameritech.net

Treasurer: George Detweiler

15173 Holleyside Drive

Dumfries, VA 22025

703-670-2313

ghdetweiler@comcast.net

2 Year Trustee: David Page

137 East Main Street

Middleburg, PA 17842

570-837-7079

dwptrucking@aol.com

4 Year Trustee: Gordy Aune, Jr.

2432 Pearson Parkway

Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

763-585-1766

GRANDPAAUNE@aol.com

6 Year Trustee: Dean Gonya

895 Park Avenue

Lock Haven, PA 17745

570-769-3282

dirg46@yahoo.com

Honorary Trustee: Kent Dorney, Past Pres.

49 Simson Street

Tonawanda, NY 14150

716-694-1595

fltmedic@verizon.net

International Chaplain: Jeff Killian

Appointed Committees

By-laws: Greg Lane (Chair),

Dick Morse, Gary O'Neal, John VanKirk

Safety: Dean Gonya (Chair),

Ron Baldwin, Robert Boss, Ian Mountfield

Nominations: Don Crete (Chair),

Gordy Aune, Jr., Dave Page

Audit: Ed Lewis (Chair),

Lloyd Bendickson, Chris Alexander, Mark Dreyer

Finance: George Detweiler (Chair),

Jeff Kaplan, Gordy Aune, Jr., Ron Ferraro

Membership: Kent Dorney (Chair),

(49 Simson Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150

Ch8MMCI@verizon.net),

Doug Kelley

Grievance: Neal Forbes (Chair),

Bumpy Geortz, Tom Boyle, Jeff Killian

Website: Doug Kelley (Chair),

(dougkelley@windstream.net), Scott Rose

Quartermaster: Cliff Wilson

Death Benefit Fund: Dick Morse (Chair),

Dick Foxen (Sec-Treas), Neal Forbes,

Cliff Wilson, Jeff Kaplan

Lifetime Trustees: Doug Kelley,

Richard Kovac, Richard Morse,

Cliff Wilson

Conference 2012: Dean Gonya (Chair)

Kent Dorney (Co-chair), hosted by Chapters 12 and 32

Newsletter Editor: Jeff Kaplan

Email **change of address**, articles and material for
publication to: **bmw_jeff@ameritech.net** or mail to:

2417 Elmdale Road, University Hts., OH 44118



President's Message...

Greetings my Brothers:

Well it appears winter's bitter bite really never took effect in Minnesota and this past season I put more miles on my motorcycle than I put on my snowmobile. The good news is Riding Season might just be upon us really early up here. At \$3.75 for a gallon of gas, the bike looks really good sitting outside at work and the truck at home in the drive way.

I hope this Rider's Digest finds everyone in good health and things are going well. Your club executive board has been busy, as has membership chairman, Kent Dorney, and the Coonference committee with Kent, Dean Gonya and VP Ron Ferraro. I am pleased to announce your club is solid and growing. We have a new, and our first chapter, in Columbus, Wisconsin, Chapter 49. Thank you Larry Herzog for your fine work and time in getting the MMCI into Wisconsin. And things move fast around here. We have a new Chapter – Chapter 51 - in Orbinsona, PA. We welcome Shawn Vaughn and 24 new MMCI members to the club and look forward to meeting many of you at the Conference in Cortland, NY. Speaking of the conference, it is not too early to make your room reservations and get your conference paperwork in. The conference committee has done an excellent job of lining this event up and your support by attending would be greatly appreciated. I remember my first conference and the feeling of "should I go, I really don't know anyone". That feeling only lasted as long as the first "Hello" from one of the members present. Everyone there made me feel at home and more than that, they made me feel welcomed. I know your experience will be the same.

Keep the MMCI in mind and out front when you visit your lodge or visit with other brothers. If each one of us tries just a little to get our club some attention, we will turn our membership from decline to growth. Do me a favor. Ask your Grand Lodge why the MMCI isn't linked to their web site. Drop just one quick email to your Grand Secretary and eventually we'll get their attention. With 700 members, we might draw some interest hey? If you need to contact me, my info is listed on Page 2.

Fraternally yours - Ken White (who retired on April 27 – Congratulations Ken!)



Vice President's Message...

Greeting Brothers,

As the winter season is coming to a close, we here on the east coast have been blessed with some great weather, being able to ride on several occasions.

As Vice President one of my duties is sitting on the Conference Committees, This year this job has been very easy. The conference committee out of New York and Pennsylvania has done a great job. The co-chairs Kent Dorney and Dean Gonya (and their Wives) have been working very hard to make this conference one to remember. If you haven't already made your plans to attend please do. They have great rides and activity planned. But Please note: We are still looking for a location for our 2013 Conference.

One other item I would like to bring up, we have a slogan "**RIDE WITH DISCRETION.**" This is one of the reasons (and there are many more) I believe our club stands out over some of the others. You must remember that we are Masons first and bike riders second. Whenever we ride and show the Square and Compasses we are representing all Masons as well as the Fraternity. Your executive board has spent many, many hours trying to repair the image of Masonic motorcycle clubs with Grand Lodges. Most if not all of this reduced the image that the board has been dealing with was not brought by our club, but by other organizations without the pride that we have for our Fraternity. So when you ride, or at anytime you are in the public and are wearing the colors of the Club please remember to act like a Mason and always "**RIDE WITH DISCRETION.**"

I hope to see you all at the Annual Conference Aug. 14 to the 17.

Fraternally yours - Ron Ferraro



MASONIC MOTORCYCLE CLUB INTERNATIONAL @ INC.

2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 Cortland, New York
 Tuesday, August 14th thru Friday, August 17th, 2012



PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____ MEMBER# _____
 PASSENGER NAME _____
 OTHER GUEST(S) NAME(S) _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

ITEM							#		Sub-Total
Registration Fee - Adult								X	\$70.00
Registration Fee – Children, 12 & Under								X	\$35.00
Conference Shirts – indicate # under size	Small	Medium	Large	XL	2XL	3XL			
Color = Natural, Women's tanks are pink					+ \$2.00	+ 2.00			
Men's Short Sleeve T-Shirt (\$13.00)							X	\$13/\$15	
Woman's Tank Top (\$13.00)						N/A	X	\$13/\$15	
Golf Shirt – Embroidered (\$22.00)							X	\$22/\$24	
Tuesday Ride: Corning Glass Museum, Corning, NY – Please purchase at the museum.							N/A	X	
Wednesday Ride: Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, NY – Group ticket \$17.50 (need 20 min.)								X	\$17.50
NOTE: if age 65 or over a Senior ticket is \$10.75, please purchase at Cooperstown									Under65
EXTRA CONFERENCE PIN								X	\$5.00
Wine Tasting – please indicate # @ \$40.00/person		<i>Indicate preferred day and Lunch below</i>						X	\$40.00
Please indicate 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd choices.		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu				
Space is limited, assignments will be 1 st come 1 st serve. We will contact you with your final selection.		Early Bird							
Wine Tasting Sandwich choice – indicate choice & number. Includes cookie and chips		Turkey	Ham	R. Beef	Assorted				
TOTAL Due									

Make checks payable to MMCI# Chapter 12, mail checks and registration form no later than JULY 1st, 2012 to:

MMCI c/o Kent Dorney
 49 Simson Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150-2312

Hotel Information:

Ramada Inn and Conference Center; 2 River St., Cortland, NY – Phone # 1-607-756-4431.
 MMCI Room Rate is \$79.00/Night + Tax.

Individuals must make their own reservations with the hotel no later than July 14th, 2012.
 After July 14th the hotel will accept reservations based upon available space and may be at prevailing rates.

For more information please feel free to contact:

Dean & Karen Gonya	(570) 769-3282 / (570) 447-7507 (cell)	dirg46@yahoo.com
Kent & Connie Dorney	(716) 694-1595 / (716) 531-2312 (cell)	MMCIch8@verizon.net

**ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN A WAIVER FORM.
 CHILDREN UNDER 18 MUST HAVE THE WAIVER SLIP SIGNED BY PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S).**

Minutes of the February 25, 2012 Executive Board Meeting... The Winter 2012 meeting of the M.M.C.I. Executive Board was called to order by President Ken White at 4:00 PM in the conference room of the Quality Inn in Apalachin, NY. All elected and appointed officers were present except for George Detweiler, Treasurer; Dave Page, Two Year Trustee; .Jeff Killian, Chaplain. Chapters 1, 3, 8, 12, 14, 24 and 32 were represented. Opening prayer was given by Don Crete, MMCI Past President and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ken White, President.

Minutes of the previous Executive Board meeting were approved.

Officers Reports:

President: Ken stated that his report was published in the President's Message in the last newsletter. He reported that he was disappointed with the cooperation (or lack thereof) he has gotten from the NASP. Ken reported that a new MMCI Chapter was forming in Wisconsin.

Vice-president: Ron indicated that his report was also published. The 2012 Annual Conference is taking shape, and that we are still looking for a 2013 site and host.

Secretary: as published in the Secretary's report. The printer approved at the last Annual Meeting has been purchased.

Treasurer: as published in the Treasurer's report. George sends his apologies for missing this meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

Trustees: as published in the Trustee's report.

Committees: Membership reported about a possible Chapter forming in Orbinsona, PA. A group of Chapter 8 members are exploring the possibility of forming a Chapter in Louisiana. Website is discussing setting up a page for the Conference Committee. DBF as published; motion made and seconded to reduce the death benefit from \$400 natural/\$800 accidental to \$200/\$400 as required in the DBF bylaws. Motion passed. Quartermaster as published.

Old Business: Bylaws review in eligibility to serve as Vice President. Wording changed to "and/or." Purchase of Italian flag will be held until Chapter 45 has paid its dues. Membership contest to be discussed further. MMCI business cards for Executive Board members. Dean will send a copy of the card he uses to Ken for review. Discussion continued about the creation of an Annual Conference handbook.

New Business: Ken led a discussion about how best to grow MMCI. Concerns were expressed about the decline in membership, a problem it was noted in all Masonic organizations. Ken asked for ideas about how best to "advertise" MMCI, and how to get the word out about the Club, its benefits and positive aspects. Gordy was the task to have 1,000 membership brochures printed for distribution at MMCI and other appropriate events. Dick further explained why the death benefit had to be reduced. Per the DBF bylaws, once the available funds drop below a certain threshold, the benefits drops to the \$200 natural - \$400 motorcycle accident amounts.

Good of the Order: None reported.

Next Executive Board meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn, Cortland, NY on Saturday, May 19, 2012. Kent will make the arrangements.

The closing prayer was given by Don Crete. Motion to adjourn moved and seconded. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

Submitted by Jeff Kaplan, International Secretary

RIDER'S DIGEST BY EMAIL OR SNAIL MAIL – IT'S YOUR CHOICE!!!

You can choose to have your copy of the RIDER'S DIGEST sent to you by email instead of waiting for it to be delivered to you by the Post Office. It's fast and convenient, and it saves trees! To receive your newsletter by email, send an email to bmw_jeff@ameritech.net, and type "Newsletter by email" in the subject line. Include your name, membership number (XX-XXXX format – look for it above your name on the envelope this newsletter came in), and the email address you want the newsletter sent to. You'll receive an acknowledgement as soon as your request is processed. Thanks!

More Scenes from the Cortland, NY Area...



Watkins Glen International



Corning Glass Works Tower



Entrance to the Corning Museum of Glass

Ken White and Chapter 24 – Growing Membership... In this day and age of declining membership and “what can we do to get exposure?” here are a couple ideas Chapter 24 has come up with.

Chapter 24 has attended its Minnesota Grand Lodge Annual Communication for the past 7-8 years. We view this as an opportunity to advance recognition of our chapter and the International. We’ve had many new members sign up because they attended Grand Lodge and saw our table. Our table consists of a computer projecting photos of some of our rides onto a screen. We have some posters for display that we’ve gotten from our Minnesota motorcycle safety council for free, along with many hand outs, pamphlets, and bumper stickers. We have our calendar of rides and our membership form. Also, a couple bowls of assorted candy is an attractant. All but the candy is free and makes for a very nice table and display. Consider having a table at your next Grand Lodge Annual Communication and see how many brothers never knew you existed and want information.

Another annual event we have is a picnic at the Minnesota Masonic Home. The chapter buys the food and invites all the members, families and guest to attend. We have a nice display of our bikes and draw much attention. We also take a ride around the grounds as a group and visit with the residents. You wouldn’t believe the smiles they have when we show up and show off. It’s also the time we make our current Grand Master an honorary member of our chapter.

These are a couple ideas your chapter might want to consider to get involved and grow. If you have any questions or want to bounce any ideas around, please feel free to contact me any time.

Secretary’s Musings... Renewal time is here. The MMCI club year runs from August 1 to July 31. If you are a Chapter 8 member and receive your **RIDER’S DIGEST** by snail mail, a renewal form is enclosed with this issue of the newsletter. If you are a Chapter 8 member and receive your **RIDER’S DIGEST** by email, thank you and a renewal notice is attached to the email along with your newsletter. Can’t find your membership number? Drop me an email and I’ll send it to you. Don’t delay – send your check and renewal form to Kent Dorney as soon as possible. Local Chapter secretaries – your rosters, update forms and dues information will be mailed to you shortly. Please send me your completed forms and dues payments before June 15 . Thank you all for your cooperation!

Just a reminder to Chapter secretaries, Chapter 8 members and members of local Chapters - the **RIDER’S DIGEST** is your newsletter. If you have an article that you think would be of interest to our members, send it to me!! My contact information – along with all the other International officers – is listed on Page 2.

Get Well wishes... go out to Kim Crete (wife of Past International President Don Crete) and Karen Gonya (wife of Six Year Trustee Dean Gonya). Both ladies were recently hospitalized, and reports have it that both are doing very well in their recoveries. And advance get well wishes to Lifetime Trustee and Quartermaster Cliff Wilson, who will be having surgery on May 11.