



MASONIC MOTORCYCLE CLUB INTERNATIONAL® INC.



RIDER'S DIGEST

Available Online at www.masonicmotorcycleclub.org

"Ride With Discretion"

WINTER 2012

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

May Your 2012 Be Filled With Safe Rides and Wonderful Memories.

From the 2012 Annual Conference Committee... The 2012 Annual Conference dates and location have been set: **August 14th – 17th** at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, Cortland, New York. This Conference is hosted by Chapters 12 (Western NY) and 32 (Williamsport, PA). Currently the Committee has scheduled the following activities and rides, along with some additional items under consideration:

Monday, August 13th: Early registration will open in the late afternoon/early evening.

Tuesday, August 14th: Ride to Corning, NY and the Corning Museum of Glass. While visiting the museum is not required you may find that the City of Corning is a quiet little city to visit that is typical of the average communities of the Central NY region. 130 to 140 miles round trip.

Wednesday, August 15th: Ride to Cooperstown, NY, a quaint old village that is home to the Baseball Hall of Fame. We have arranged to park in one of the Trolley lots and Trolley tickets will be provided for all registered Conference participants. 159 miles round trip on secondary roads, with an optional 2 miles on the interstate or secondary as the leader of each group determines. There will be a few curves on this ride. The Annual **MMCI** General Membership meeting will be held this evening, along with the presentation of the Brother of the Road ceremony.

Thursday, August 16th: Currently this day is open, however the following rides are being considered: Skaneateles, NY – 60 mile round trip. This is intended to be a short and relaxing ride to the village for shopping, sightseeing, and lunch. Breakfast Run Between the Lakes – ride of undetermined length intended to leave early, stop for breakfast and possibly attempt to see if we can find any of the elusive white deer herd at the Seneca Army Depot in Romulus. Secondary roads and interstate free guaranteed. Wine Tour Participants – missed out on the Tuesday or Wednesday ride? No problem, as we intend to offer you guides on Thursday if you would like to visit either location. Annual Banquet...need we say more?

Friday, August 17th: As all good things must come to an end a traditional **MMCI** Send Off Breakfast Buffet will be available this morning as part of your registration fee.

Wine tours – The Chapters are renting a multi-passenger van to conduct small group wine tours each day of the Conference. The tours will cover 6 to 7 wineries and include a boxed lunch and other beverages for the participants. If you are interested in a wine tour we suggest you select your day and submit your registration early to ensure you will receive your first choice. Cost is \$40 per person.

If you have any ideas, would like to help out, or feel strongly about which rides or activities you want to participate in please do not hesitate to communicate with the Conference Committee as we want all to have a good time. The 2012 Annual Conference registration form is located on page 4 of this issue of the **RIDER'S DIGEST**.

Next MMCI Executive Board Meeting – Saturday, February 25, 2012
4:00 – 6:00 PM in the Conference Room at the Quality Inn, Apalachin, NY 607-625-4441

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

ronferraro@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 Jackson, 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...

It is sadness that has a place in my heart as I write this. On Saturday, December 11 there was a memorial service for our Brother Rex Baker as he had lost his battle with cancer just a few days earlier. It's hard to wonder, or even comprehend where **MMCI** would be today if it weren't for men like the original few, including Rex, that took it upon themselves to start and form this organization. These were truly Brothers who "walked the walk and talked the talk" when it came to getting **MMCI** off the ground and growing it into what it is today. Today we have around 700 members and many proudly wear the patch and ride with the discretion these fellows dreamed of. Words can never say enough to be able to tell these Brothers what they mean to us and how they shaped the club. Thank You is just so simple and rolls off the tongue like water off a duck's back. In reality though, that's all we have. Our actions say Thank You, our words say Thank You and a simple hug says Thank You. My brothers, when you run into some of these founding fathers of the **MMCI**, please take a moment and say Thank You.

At this time I would like to express my deepest respect and appreciation to Bonnie Baker for allowing us to have Rex enter our lives and touch us with a special feeling only a few brothers get to know. Rex was a good man, a gentle man and an example of the man we should all try to achieve. Rex, rest in peace and know well my brother, your work here is done, but you will never be forgotten.

When you read this the Christmas season will have passed and we will be in the hard grip of winter in Minnesota. But, I still want to take this moment and tell each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A short FYI. We have had contact with some fellow riders and right now we are in the process of possibly adding 3 new chapters. 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. I challenge you to ask your Grand Lodge why we aren't listed on their Masonic link. 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?

Fraternally yours - Ken White



Vice President's Message...

Brethren and Ladies - As I write this message my thoughts are leaning more towards the holidays than riding. But I must say the Great Architect of the Universe has blessed us with some great late November and early December riding temperatures here in Delaware. I just came back from a Toys for Tots ride and the temperature here was in the mid 60s. So the bike will have to stay in the front of the garage just for a little longer.

Speaking of nice riding weather, August in the Finger Lakes Region of New York will be fantastic for riding. The committee for the 2012 Annual Conference in Cortland, NY is making all the plans and arrangements for another great conference. Please mark your calendar and make your reservations early. You can ask anyone that ever attended a conference - once you attend one, you will want to come back year after year.

We are still looking for a location for our 2013 conference. Please talk to the brothers in your Chapter and let us know if you would be interested in hosting a conference in your area. It's not a lot of work, just ask Brother George Detweiler, a member of Chapter 8. He had a great location for a conference (Winchester Virginia), and with no home chapter to help, stepped up to the plate offered to host the 2010 conference. George put out a request for help, the brothers responded, and we had a great conference. There are different ways it can be done, and you do not have to do all the work yourself. Please consider being a host.

In closing I would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

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 _____

Table with columns: ITEM, #, Sub-Total. Rows include Registration Fee - Adult (\$70.00), Registration Fee - Children, 12 & Under (\$35.00), Conference Shirts (Men's Short Sleeve T-Shirt, Woman's Tank Top, Golf Shirt), Tuesday Ride (Corning Glass Museum), Wednesday Ride (Baseball Hall of Fame), EXTRA CONFERENCE PIN (\$5.00), Wine Tasting (\$40.00), and a TOTAL Due row.

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:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Contact Info. Rows: 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).

Final notice to PAST DUE Chapter 8 Members and local Chapters... Chapter 8 Members – if your membership number on your mailing label ends with 2011, then this is your final newsletter. On January 31 you will be removed from the club roster if your 2012 dues and renewal form are not received by then. If you receive your newsletter by email and are unsure if you paid your dues, contact the International Secretary or Membership Chairman for more information.

The following Chapters have not sent in their dues and roster updates – **15 (CT), 28 (Empire NY), 37 (Camp Hill PA), 41 (Sioux Falls SD), 45 (Italy)**. If you are a Member of one of these Chapters please contact your Club secretary immediately and request that your Chapter's 2012 dues and form be sent to the International Secretary by January 31. Chapters that do not submit their dues and renewal forms will be changed to inactive status, and their Members will be removed from the **MMCI** roster.

Thanks for your cooperation!

Rex Baker, MMCI Founding Member, called by the GAOTU... Rex J. Baker, a founding member of the Masonic Motorcycle Club of Ohio (Chapter 1) and the Masonic Motorcycle Club International, passed away on Tuesday, November 29, 2011, at Hospice House in Poland, Ohio following a brief illness. He was 62. Rex was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served during the Vietnam War. He married Bonnie in 1977, and they enjoyed more than 34 years together.

In addition to helping found **MMCI**, Rex also served as International President and Secretary, and was **MMCI's** first membership chairman. At the time of his passing, Rex was serving as treasurer of **MMCI** Chapter 1. He was a longtime Mason and was a current member of Hartsgrove Lodge 397, Grand River Chapter 104, Geneva Council 145, the Columbian Commandry 52 and the Leroy F. Shanhower Council A.M.D. 149.

A memorial service in honor of Rex's life was held on December 11, 2011 at the Painesville Masonic Hall in Painesville, Ohio. Rex will be greatly missed by family, friends and **MMCI** Members.

Minutes of the October 22, 2011 Executive Board Meeting... The Fall 2011 meeting of the **MMCI** Executive Board was called to order by President Ken White at 4:02 PM in the conference room of the Quality Inn in Apalachin, NY. All elected and appointed officers were present except for Dave Page, Two Year Trustee; Rex Baker, Lifetime Trustee; Cliff Wilson, Lifetime Trustee. Chapters 1, 8, 12, 24 and 32 were represented. Opening prayer was given by Jeff Killian, International Chaplain, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ken White, President.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting were approved.

Officers Reports:

President: Ken stated that his report was published in the President's Message in the last newsletter. He also said that he wants to send out a letter on behalf of the NASP effort. Ken will handle that.

Vice-president: Ron stated that he had nothing to report at this time, but that he wanted to thank everyone for their support.

Secretary: as published in the Secretary's report.

Treasurer: as published in the Treasurer's report. George reported that the checkbook balances. George submitted bills for approval and payment. Motion made and passed to pay the bills. A question was raised about the Death Benefit Fund and its accounting, since it is not shown in the Treasurer's report. Discussion about how the DBF is set up.

Trustees: Nothing to report.

Committees: Membership reported three new member applications were received since the last Board meeting, but Kent could not report on how many current Chapter 8 members had not submitted their renewal forms. Kent also reported that a Chapter in LA could be formed, that the Central NY Chapter might reactivate,

(Minutes, contd.) but that there was no potential for a Chapter in CA. The Website Committee is looking for pictures from the 2011 Annual Conference to post online, and that the website is current. DBF as published; discussion about separation of DBF and Club general funds. Quartermaster's report as published.

Old Business: Permanent address for MMCI will be the International Secretary's home address.

New Business: Two bylaws changes were submitted for consideration. The Bylaws committee will present them to the Executive Board for its approval to present them at the 2012 Annual Meeting. Discussion about a Five Man Conference Committee to organize Annual Conferences. Consensus was not favorable. The questionnaire presented to membership attending the 2011 Annual Conference was reviewed. Discussion about a contest to encourage local Chapters to grow membership was discussed, and Ken and Jeff will present this at the next Board meeting. Discussion about purchasing the flag of Italy to display with the American and Canadian flags at the Executive Board and Annual Meetings. Chapter 24 offered to purchase the flag. Jeff suggested that no action be taken on this until Chapter 45's dues have been paid.

Good of the Order: None reported.

Next Executive Board meeting will be held at the Quality Inn, Apalachin, NY on Saturday, February 25, 2012. Kent will make the arrangements.

The closing prayer was given by Jeff Killian, International Chaplain. Motion to adjourn moved and seconded. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

Submitted by Jeff Kaplan, International Secretary

Final Journeys...

Peter Moraites Chapter 27; Waterford, MI August 21, 2010

Rex J. Baker Chapter 1; North Bloomfield, OH November 29, 2011 **MMCI Founding Member, Past International President (1993 – 1995)**

Have You Visited the Club Website Lately? If Not, Why Not??
Go to www.masonicmotorcycleclub.org and check it out.

Scenes from the Cortland, NY Area...



The Ramada Inn



A Finger Lakes Winery



National Baseball Hall of Fame

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