



Blue Knights® International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.



TRI-STATE CONFERENCE BY-LAWS

Last TSC Revision Approved 10/06/12
Int'l Approved 10-18-12

ARTICLE I

A. NAME

The name of this Conference shall be “The Blue Knights Tri-State Conference” (herein known as the “T.S.C.”) and shall be comprised of the states of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania and shall be a subsidiary of the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc. Which is the parent organization based in Brewer (Bangor), Maine.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of the T.S.C. shall be to: promote and support the By-Laws and Constitution of the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc. (herein known as the “International”); to govern and provide fraternal leadership and guidance to those chapters within the T.S.C. boundaries as set forth by the International.

In no way shall the By-Laws and Constitution of the T.S.C. take precedent over or conflict with the By-Laws and Constitution of the International.

ARTICLE II

OFFICES OF THE T.S.C.

Section 1. The Offices of the T.S.C. shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer; and one member who shall be a T.S.C. representative to the International. These officers shall be known as the Board of Directors (herein known as the “Board”).

Section 2. Only regular members who are presently serving, or have served honorably, as a chapter president may hold the offices of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or International Representative. The position of International Representative/Chairman or the Secretary/Treasurer may be held by a single person.

Section 3. The International Representative will act as Liaison between the Conference and International. He/she will attend all T.S.C. Board meetings or special meetings called by the Executive Board. He/she will keep the T.S.C. Board advised of all business conducted at International level, whether related to the T.S.C. or any other Conference, and shall be governed by the job description and duties as set forth in the International’s Procedure Manual.

a. It shall be the responsibility of the International representative, or member acting in that capacity, to directly represent the majority opinion of the T.S.C. Board in any and all matters on the International level. The International Representative shall not have the authority to act or vote contrary to a T.S.C. Board decision or position.

(i). In the event that the International Representative, or any member acting in that capacity acts or votes in a manner contrary to the T.S.C. decision or position, he or she will be subject to the impeachment process, based on a written outline of said charge(s). If a violation is charged and an impeachment hearing is held, the International Representative charged will be subject to discipline or removal from Office as voted by a majority of the Chapter Presidents represented at the impeachment hearing.

(ii). Nothing in this section and subsection shall be construed to conflict with the duties of the

International Representative as prescribed in the duties of the International Representative in the Regulations of the Blue Knights International.

Section 4. Any vacancy in the T.S.C. Board may be filled by a majority vote of the existing Board.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The Annual meeting of the T.S.C. shall be held over the Columbus Day weekend at a site to be determined by majority vote at the previous Annual Meeting.

Section 2. A business meeting will be held within the first five (5) months of each year and be conducted in each state of the T.S.C. whose site will be determined by the Board.

Section 3. A special meeting may be called by the T.S.C. Board or by a written petition of 25% of the chapters within the T.S.C. Only such business as set forth in the petition shall be transacted at a special meeting.

Section 4. The site of any special meeting will be centrally accessible to the majority of all chapters and will be determined by the T.S.C. Board.

Section 5. New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania State Representatives shall be appointed by T.S.C. Executive Board. Appointments shall be for two years, subject to annual review by the Board. Duties to include but not limited to the following:

- a. Liaison between the Conference and Tri-State chapters.
- b. Attend the spring and Annual Meetings of the Conference.
- c. When possible attend chapter meetings.
- d. Research applicable State laws, statutes and procedures when necessary.
- e. Assist the Board and Chapters in any manner as directed.
- f. Maintain records of activities.
- g. Endeavor to display the best possible image of the Blue Knights through personal example.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1. All nominations for offices of the T.S.C. shall be made no later than 60 days prior to the date of the T.S.C. annual meeting and may be made by any T.S.C. member in good standing. Any Qualified member of the T.S.C. can be nominated. In the event that no qualified T.S.C. Member has been nominated prior to the 60 day cutoff period, the T.S.C. Chairman can extend the deadline. If no nomination and/or acceptance to run for any T.S.C. Executive board position have been made by the time the election meeting has been convened, the T.S.C. Chairman can allow nominations from the floor during that meeting. The nominee must be a qualified member and must be present to accept the nomination.

Section 2. A member nominated for T.S.C. office must meet the qualification requirements as set forth in article II of these bylaws and must be a member in good standing. The qualification of any member running for office will be decided by the T.S.C. Board or an Election Qualification Committee appointed by the board.

Section 2a. A member seeking a position on the T.S.C. board must send a letter of intent to run for that office to the T.S.C. Secretary within the eligibility period via US Mail, e-mail, fax or by personal service. The T.S.C. Secretary must acknowledge receipt of the letter of intent from the candidate by US mail, e-mail, fax or a hand written receipt, in the case of personal service. In all cases requiring a date as proof, the date stamp on the letter or the "date sent" on the e-mail or the date on the fax or a dated receipt by the T.S.C. Secretary, will be the accepted date of mailing.

Section 3. The term of elected offices shall be for two (2) years and shall commence on the first of the month immediately following the T.S.C. Annual Meeting.

Section 4. Political flyers for any candidate running for any T.S.C. office, will be included in the T.S.C. Newsletters at the candidates own expense and under the same rules as those governing the inclusion of chapter

event flyers.

ARTICLE V

VOTING

Section 1. All voting on T.S.C. business, elections, or legal matters must be done by T.S.C. chapters' presidents only, or a designee who has submitted a written authorization to the T.S.C. Secretary from the president of his or her chapter.

Section 2. Any member of the T.S.C. may request the floor for the purpose of addressing an issue, or putting a motion in order for discussion.

Section 3. The general membership may vote on matters that the Chairman has designated as "Good of the Order".

ARTICLE VI

DUES

Section 1. The dues for the chapter of the T.S.C. may be adjusted by the Board as deemed necessary from time to time with the approval of a majority vote of chapter presidents at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VII

COMPENSATION

Section 1. The officers of the T.S.C. shall not receive any salary for their services as such, but by resolution of the Board, reasonable travel expenses toward registration and lodging, if any, for attendance at the Annual Meeting of the T.S.C. may be allowed. Any monies authorized shall be for officers only.

Section 2. The TSC Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall each receive the sum of \$300.00 toward their registration and lodging to attend the Annual Blue Knights International Convention.

ARTICLE VIII

ASSOCIATE CHAPTERS

Associate chapters shall pay dues to the T.S.C. for the purpose of receiving conference news, authorization to pick a date on the conference ride schedule, and to address any issue that may be of concern to said chapter, or for the purpose of furthering fraternalism between said chapter(s) and the T.S.C., but may not have a vote on any T.S.C. business, elections, or legal matters within said conference.

ARTICLE IX

DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The T.S.C. Board has the right to investigate any chapter within the conference with just cause, or when confronted by written accusation that specifies any conduct that may be detrimental to the name of "The Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc." or to this subsidiary known as the T.S.C.

Section 2. Any chapter that has been accused of any detrimental conduct must be given an opportunity to answer these charges before the membership, or before any recommended actions may be authorized, and furthermore, any recommendations by the T.S.C. must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at either a business or special meeting of those present and eligible to vote.

The T.S.C. may recommend to the International, either suspension or removal of any chapter within the Conference if stated accusations are found to be true and correct and said chapter refuses to cooperate to correct these accusations in any manner whatsoever.

Section 3. Any member that charges an officer of the T.S.C. with malfeasance in office must present the Board with a written outline of said charges and must be submitted to the membership before a special meeting which shall be scheduled as soon as possible. The Board must submit these charges to the International along with the Board's findings and recommendations, if any.

Section 4. Any chapter or officer that has been found to be guilty of any misconduct may petition the International under existing International guidelines to seek a hearing before the International Board of Directors or their designee if they believe the recommendations or actions of the T.S.C. or its Board to be unfair, unjust, or without any truthful basis.

Section 5. Any recommendations or actions sent from the T.S.C. to the International Board of Directors and ruled on by the International Board of Directors or their designee shall become binding and decisions upheld by the T.S.C.

Section 6. When the T.S.C. Board intercedes in any difficulty which has arisen within one of its chapters, the Conference will do its best to meet the necessary parties of the chapter to come to a resolution of the problem. The Conference will expend the necessary monetary expenses within reason until the Board renders a decision to the chapter, in writing.

If for any reason the chapter fails or refuses to comply with said decision, causing the Conference to expend further monetary expenses, i.e., telephone calls, tolls, gasoline, postage, etc., said chapter will be responsible for those expenses incurred on a dollar for dollar basis until compliance is met. At that point, the Conference Treasurer will submit to said chapter an invoice itemizing the total expenses incurred and request immediate reimbursement to the Conference.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

Section 1. The By-Laws of the T.S.C. may only be amended at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. The proposed amendment must be received by the Secretary or Secretary / Treasurer in writing sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting and be presented to the membership by mail no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. The amendment must receive approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the majority of members present and eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE XI

NEW CHAPTER CHARTER PROCEDURE

The Executive Board of the Blue Tri-State Conference, hereafter referred to as "TSCB", shall upon receipt of any application for the issuance of a new Blue Knights® Chapter Charter, conduct the following procedures prior to the issuance of such charter;

Section 1: Upon receipt of an application for a new chapter's charter, the "TSCB" shall within **FIVE (05) days**, notify in writing, via E-mail or US Mail, all affected chapter's president and/or contact person within fifty (50) miles of the proposed new chapter.

Section 2: The letter to the affected chapter's president and/or contact person will request their approval or disapproval of the issuance of a new chapter's charter within fifty (50) miles of their chapter.

Section 3: After receipt of notification from the “TSCB”, the President and/or the contact person of the affected chapters shall submit in writing to the “TSCB”, within **THIRTY (30) consecutive days**, via E-mail or US mail, their approval or disapproval of the issuance of the new proposed chapter’s charter. If an affected chapter disapproves, then said disapproving chapter must include within the body of the letter the reason(s) why the charter should not be issued. (This would help the “TSCB” to come up with an amicable solution).

Section 4: The “TSCB”, within **FIVE (05) consecutive days** *after* the initial **THIRTY (30) days** notification, shall notify the representative(s) of the proposed new chapter and all affected chapter(s) president and/or contact person, via telephone call and/or E-mail to schedule a meeting between all parties that are involved. This meeting will also be attended by a member(s) of the” TSCB” or a “TSCB” Designee. The meeting between all involved parties shall take place within **THIRTY (30) days**, and will be held at a pre-determined area, along with date and time that is agreed upon by all parties involved.

Section 5: Should the “TSCB” send a Designee to said meeting, for whatever reason(s), than said Designee shall be the TSC State Rep in the state of the proposed chapter. Purpose of said meeting will be to:

1. Introduce and welcome the proposed new chapter and its members to the Blue Knights® International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, the Tri-State Conference and other nearby Blue Knights® chapters.
2. Establish validity of opposing chapter(s) arguments.
3. Discuss problems with opposing chapter(s) and attempt to make an amicable solution.
4. Attempt to gain new membership to affected chapter(s) if opposition to the new proposed chapter is valid.

Section 6: In the event that a representative of an affected chapter(s) with opposition to the new proposed chapter cannot make said meeting, then the affected chapter’s opposition will then become invalid and the “TSCB” will render a decision based solely on their investigation.

Section 7: Upon completion of said meeting, the “TSCB” member(s) or “TSCB” Designee, shall within **FIVE (05) consecutive days**, notify all “TSCB” members, via telephone call or E-mail of his/her recommendation as to the issuance of a new charter. The “TSCB” representative’s recommendation shall submit a summary of said meeting.

Section 8: Within **FIVE (05) consecutive days** of the “TSCB” member’s or “TSCB” Designee’s recommendation, then the “TSCB” Chairman or Vice-chairman shall notify, via telephone and/or E-mail, all involved parties and Blue Knights® International of their decision to grant or deny proposed new chapter’s charter.

Section 9: In the event that no opposition is received, then the “TSCB” will be allowed to grant or deny the issuance of a new charter to a proposed chapter after **THIRTY (30) consecutive days** of the application. There will be no need for a meeting between any parties.

ARTICLE XII

TSC Spring Meetings funding assistance

Section 1. The TSC Board may approve a Startup Grant for any TSC Chapter hosting a Spring Presidents Meeting. Only the hosting Chapter President may request the startup grant from the TSC Executive Board. The Startup Grant can only be used to help pay the costs of hosting the TSC Spring Presidents Meeting. A Startup Grant can be approved by the TSC Board based upon the availability of TSC Funds. A grant of up to \$500.00 can be approved, but a lesser amount can be approved if the TSC Board deems it to be appropriate. No hosting chapter will be granted more TSC funding than what is allowed in the initial grant. The TSC Presidents can, from time to time, vote to increase the amount of the Startup Grant funds should it be deemed appropriate.

Section 2. Profits from the spring meeting would go to paying back the TSC grant, up to the total dollar amount the hosting chapter was granted from the TSC. All items and ways that the hosting chapter used to make a profit (shirt sales, registration fees, 50-50's, raffles, door prize ticket sales, etc) would be included as part of the profit that a hosting chapter makes and, therefore, would have to be used to pay the TSC Grant back before the hosting chapter could take any profit. All profits over the dollar amount granted from the TSC would go to the hosting chapter. Charity fund raising sales would not be included as part of the hosting chapter's profit.

Section 3. For those hosting chapters who have been given a Startup Grant from the TSC, there would have to be a financial accounting report made to the TSC after the spring Presidents Meeting is over. This accounting would be for the costs involved in hosting the Presidents Meeting only. No other chapter accounting is required. A financial accounting document would have to be submitted to the TSC Treasurer within 60 days after the date of the spring Presidents Meeting. No hosting chapter is obligated to take any grant money from the TSC. Any hosting chapter, that did not receive grant money from the TSC, will not be obligated to make a financial report to the TSC.

Section 4. Any hosting chapter, who was granted money from the TSC and did not make a profit, would not be obligated to pay the money granted back to the TSC. At the same time, the TSC is under no obligation to pay any of the hosting chapter's bills or obligations or liabilities. The money granted from the TSC is simply to help encourage TSC Chapters to host the Spring Presidents Meeting by helping them with the cost of hosting the meeting. No interest will be charged for any granted funds.