



## Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club ® Inc.

### Office of the International President

3029 Bowie Ln

Huntingtown, MD. USA

1.301.518.2090

[president@redknightsmc.com](mailto:president@redknightsmc.com)



#### Presidents End of Year Report 2017

Wow, 2017 was an Amazing year for the Red Knights.

At the end of the last few years I would sit and think of the year in review, thinking it was better than the year before. Well, 2017 was no exception, by far.

The year started off like many others, we had some new Chairpersons in place and all was going along smoothly. Your International Board was chugging away at daily tasks, taking care of business as usual. Then I get a text in May from one of the Founders (Norm) that the house was for sale next to the Memorial in Boylston.

As we did not own the Memorial, the Board, after significant discussion made the decision to purchase the property that was for sale. We were certain that we could negotiate a land trade with the Town to get the Memorial in permanent ownership of the members of this great club. During the months of May and June the Board worked tirelessly to ensure all went well with the acquisition of the property. There were significant roadblocks encountered during the entire process, but when each roadblock presented itself, a work-around soon became clear.

In July, the Board passed a motion and enacted the creation of a third entity of the Red Knights. It is called the Red Knights Memorial Foundation (RKMF). This Foundation was quickly recognized by the United States Government as a Non-Profit, 501(c)3 Charitable organization. During the Convention Meeting and Banquet, we kicked off the fundraising drive for the RKMF. It was an incredible start. Through the end of 2017, the incredible generosity of the Membership and a few outside organizations, the Red Knights Memorial Foundation has received well over \$59,000.00 as "charter" donations. Please visit the new website for the Foundation at [rkimf.org](http://rkimf.org).

During the Annual Business Meeting, the membership embraced the purchase and enacted a \$4 per member dues increase. Our hope is to have the entire Property and Memorial paid off in 5 years or less.

In November, I addressed the voters of Boylston and the town voters quickly approved the transfer of the land to allow us to own the Memorial grounds. On May 5<sup>th</sup> of 2018, we will be rededicating the Memorial, now to the Ownership of the members, and dedicating the Red Knights Memorial Hall to you the member as well. The entire Board will be there and we hope you will join us for this historic event.

During the Annual Banquet this last year, we changed the Memorial Presentation to include a photo of those members that had passed onto Heavens One chapter. A very nice addition, Huge thanks goes out to all those responsible for getting the pictures into us and to Jack Jarvis for making the touching presentation video.



## Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club ® Inc. Office of the International President

3029 Bowie Ln  
Huntingtown, MD. USA  
1.301.518.2090  
[president@redknightsmc.com](mailto:president@redknightsmc.com)



The interim transition of the Quartermaster to Alan Billings at the beginning of 2017 and final transition of the position in December to Don Moore was very successful on both counts. Thanks go to Alan for stepping up and filling the interim position when asked and for all your hard work during the changeovers. Thank also goes to all those that applied for the position. Congratulations to Don Moore for being appointed as the new QM for the Red Knights Regalia Corp. 2017 also saw a change in the Grand Tour Chairman. Thank You Emmett Duprey for making yourself available to take on the interim position and bringing it up to date.

Thank you to all those that participated in hosting all of the Regional Rallies! What a huge success they have become. From the original, the Dixie Rally, to the Yankee, the Western and the European. I look forward to more as I hear others are in the making. These rallies are a great place to meet hundreds of other Red Knights, yet normally closer to home and easier to attend than the Convention. If you have never been to a Regional Rally, They are a blast, please try to make it to one or more of them.

In October the Green Knights hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Gathering of the Knights aka, Knights of the Round Table tournament in Maryland. The Red Knights may not have won, but we are going to be hosting it in 2018 in Tennessee. More info to follow soon.

Updating rosters has become a problem in 2017, nearly 1 out of 5 of the members who passed away last year were not on the International Roster when they passed away. All were honored. This leads us to believe that possibly 1 out of 5 "members" are not actually members of the Red Knights; this would be a person joining a chapter but the chapter not sending in their information as required by the By-Laws. The board has now adopted a practice and Chapters were informed last fall. All chapters must submit an email to the Treasurer quarterly with any or no roster changes. This is a quick and simple process. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Director or the Treasurer for clarification. Failure to submit rosters quarterly may result in the Chapter not being able to order merchandise, not being able to vote amongst other negative actions.

**Please update your rosters and check your Red Knights Chapter email accounts regularly.**

In Closing, I want to take this opportunity to personally extend my appreciation to each of the Committee Chairs for all they do. In addition, I want each of you to know that each and every one of your elected officers works diligently with laser focus on their tasks at hand. Special thanks go to each and every Red Knight, without you, this organization would not be what it is today. Thank You to all.

Red Knights Forever  
&  
Loyal to our Duty

Chris Gadway