

## **2020 International Board Convention Reports**

### **President – Joey Powell**

This year has been a challenging year for all . We have had to make decisions that the board has never made. Cancelling the 2020 convention was the hardest item that I have been involved with as a member of the board, but we must take the welfare of each member under consideration. Under the guide lines that were given out for everyone to follow due to the virus, the board started having Zoom meetings each month to stay informed. We had to cancel our spring meeting so the Zoom meeting has been a great help. On the other hand, we also feel unconnected with each other and the members. As everyone knows being face to face is always better. We hope to have our fall meeting but we shall see what happens. We are going to have an ABM meeting again by Zoom, we are hoping to be able to record it so everyone can watch. We are looking into other ways also. This year it will be only an information meeting since we can not vote on items.

2021 will be challenging! As an organization we should continue to grow in Members and Chapters. Not too many organizations can say this. We do see places opening up to a certain degree and we are able to ride as a group. Continue to follow local guidelines as we fight our way through this time. I know the coming year will be a great one! The club was formed for riding and enjoying the company of each other. Sometimes I think we forget this. This coming year I would like to challenge each Chapter to plan a ride to meet another Chapter that you have not rode with, sit down, talk and get to know them, asking questions, and I will guarantee you that new ideas will be out there for you to become a better Chapter and also gain new Members. Again the club was formed to ride and make new friends.

What I think a Red Knight should be:

As I take a look at why I joined the club I think back why I joined the fire service. I wanted the company of people that when I was down they would be there to pick me back up no matter the effort. In other words, they would not turn on me and feed me to the wolves even though we have different opinions or disagree on something. We can take our opinions the majority of times, putting them together to form one great item that would work for all. Being on the Board has taught me to listen and not react the first time I hear something. Try to understand the other person. I myself do not do this all the time and I get pulled back in line. We all must sometimes move forward and learn from the past. We cannot erase what has been done but we can learn from it, teach others about it so we can be better in the future. Just like a fire scene. After the call we go back and take a look at what we did and we preplan for the next call so we can be better. With this said, the past is the past. Learn from it, build on it, and pick your brothers and sisters up to make them better. We are all Red Knights at the end of the day. Not one of us is better than the other, we are all equal. We take the best from each other and make this club the best, the biggest, and the strongest. If you are in the club so that you can make a name for yourself you are in it for the wrong reason. It's all about making new friends, enjoying the company of your fellow firefighters, and their families. Telling stories on each other for what they have done positive on the "fire scene". Be a part of the biggest firefighter family in the world and most of all, GO RIDE your bike and have fun in life.