

## RKIFMC President 2016 Convention / End of year report

Wow, 2016 is already over? Where did it go? So much has happened in the RKMC this year; I hope I can remember it all. If I miss something, I am sure I will get it in on the next report.

Wisconsin convention was incredible. For years I saw Cheese heads on TV on Sunday afternoons. I never realized how much fun they know how to have. It was a great time had by all, if you missed it, you missed a great time. As normal, 3 days of riding in the rain was in the forecast for the ride, but it was well worth it. A special thanks goes out to all those involved in the planning and execution, especially Monty Timm and WI5.

Your International Board has been hard at work in 2016 as usual handling everyday business and new projects alike. We as officers have attended many local, state, provincial, regional and international events. This year I had the chance to attend many RK events, I was able to get to 3 regional rallies; the European, the Dixie, and the Yankee. I was also able to enjoy the NJ after Christmas party, Americade (for the first time) and many State picnics. Thanks to all the invites and thank you to all the hosts of all the events for providing such a great time for all to enjoy the fellowship of each other.

This past year we did have many members who passed on and joined Heavens 1 chapter. If you did not know, the International Board sends a flag to the chapter and the International Chaplain sends an Angel coin. Whenever possible, a Board member attends the services to help the chapter during the difficult times in any way. Many believe this is singularly one of the most important missions we take on. Shortly after Christmas 2015 I received a phone call to tell me that Dave Hamilton had passed away. Dave was the founding President of the Red Knights, helping forge the organization we enjoy today. It was truly a humbling experience to attend Dave's services in early January. To simply say Thank You Dave for all you did for the greatest firefighter motorcycle club in the world is not enough, but "Thank You".

Last spring the Red Knights book/CD was sent out to those who preordered it. Thank you to all the members that participated and purchased the history/anthology of the Red Knights. For those that did not get a chance to purchase this or just wanted to see it first, Visit the Quartermasters table and/or webpage for you chance to own the first and only professionally edited book about our great club. The information and pictures in the book were submitted 100% by you the members, over 3100 members called in to help out with the book. As a little teaser for you, the book contains about 40 pages on the history, letters from current/past officers and some of the founding fathers as well. There will be over 400 pictures, most submitted directly from the members in addition to over 1,600 short articles from the members that called in. The BOD did negotiate extra books free of charge to be given to the founders as a small token of appreciation.

Dynamic Business Solutions out of California is now our web hosting company. They take care of all our website and email needs. The transition started in 2015 and the email accounts were moved over after convention in 2015. In the fall of 2016, George Colby (MA3 and MA rep) was appointed as the new communications committee chairman. He is replacing the outgoing chair Tom Delboi (Swiss 4). Thank you Tom Tom for your service. If you are having any email troubles, need a password reset or just have an RK event you would like to add, a small problem or navigational issue with the new site, please send an email detailing your event or concern to [communications@redknightsmc.com](mailto:communications@redknightsmc.com) while coping your regional director. They will ensure this situation is handled.

On behalf of the entire membership, I thank those behind the scenes at Boylston for all your work building and maintaining the one place that any Red Knight can go to reflect and remember those who have gone before us. You have brought an amazing place to all Red Knights.

To Matt (region 1) and Pierre (region 7) I hope you have enjoyed your first full year on the board, you are no longer the new guys! Congrats to Spike (Vice President), Jason (the new Region 8 director, South Pacific) and Jack (Secretary) The rest of the board has enjoyed your fresh energy and new ideas. Thank you for stepping up and serving the members, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

After many years, Bill (Popeye) Snodgrass stepped down as International Secretary, Bill brought many new organizational concepts to the Red Knights in his decade plus of service. Chicken Joe of Texas came to the board in PEI, brought some fantastic ideas to the board and was always spirited in his discussion. Joe also did not seek another term. To both Bill and Joe, on behalf of the entire Red Knight membership, thank you for serving the members of this great club and good luck in your future endeavors.

I would like to also thank each of the officers of the International Board, the International Committees and especially those who left their positions over the past year. I can honestly say I have NEVER worked with a finer group of men and women. Amy Gilliland of PA as the outgoing By-Law Chair and Popeye as the outgoing Chaplain, the efforts that both of you had put in were greatly appreciated.

As of this November, your new International Chaplain is Dennis Hewett (NY22); Dennis has already stepped into the new position with grace, humility and honor in serving the members of the Red Knights.

The founder and sole administrator of the Grand Tour program, Henry Heideman (ON7) has decided to step down. I am sure there have been many thousands of Grand Tours completed and recognized while Henry was at the Wheel. The entire membership owes Henry a huge thank you for your decade plus of service. As the torch is passed to Perry Lewin (AB3)

Your new By-Law chairman is Chuck Weikel (MAL-NJ); he has hit the ground running with his fellow committee members working on the very labor intensive project of a By-Law rewrite that will be presented to you, the members very soon.

As 2016 has come to an end and we look forward to 2017, I am honored and humbled as I look forward to continuing my work for you as I will be seeking an additional term as your International President.

“Loyal to Our Duty”  
Chris Gadway  
International President