

Brother and Sister Red Knights,

I have been trying to write this since Christmas and am now down to the wire. Yes, I have suffered writer's block because this is a bitter sweet time for me. I am finishing up my last term as Director of Region 3. While my health is relatively good, I missed the Syracuse Convention in order to get a hip replaced. I have missed the fall 2018 meeting because I had mandatory training for my position on the local school board and life is getting too hectic with all the things I want to do.

So that being said, this last year has seen me covering more funerals. It has also had me rely on the Region 3 State Association Reps to perform other funerals that I could not make. I want to thank those Reps that stepped forward and honored our deceased Brothers and Sisters. They have shown the Loyal to our Duty portion of our Motto is alive within the RKIFMC.

This last year gave us a fantastic Convention in Pittsburgh, PA with PA8 hosting and making sure we all enjoyed our Time in "Yinz country". The convention was a success with not quite as many members showing up as we thought but we were able to break even and still have the ability to give a little to PA8's favorite charity. I hope you enjoyed the sites, sounds, food and events while you were here. The only thing I truly missed occurring was the trip to the Flight 93 Memorial. We can't control the weather and I hope there are other chances for us to honor those that died so that others may live. Truly a noble act of human character and ability.

So, on the wind down part, so far two people have made me aware they will be running for the position of Director of Region 3. I just hope that they understand the time commitment, have the freedom to travel and ability to continue working for the improvement of this great organization. With Board meetings one needs almost three weeks to travel to and from and attend meetings. That is generally an individual's whole allocation of vacation time and leaves nothing for the family to share in. That takes quite a bit of dedication not only from the person but also from their families. When funerals come up, hopefully the winner can take the time off to attend as many funerals as possible. I feel that every member that passes should be thanked by a Board Member or State Rep for their service and dedication to our Order.

And last, I hope new leadership brings new ideas. I look around and see most of our members in their 40s or above. We cannot afford to not bring younger members into the club or we will fast run out of workers and riders that show our dedication to safe motorcycle riding, fun, fellowship with brother and sister firefighters, giving back to our communities and those around us that need help. And also, we need people that will promote a positive image of Motorcyclist.

It has been an honor and pleasure serving the Red Knights members and chapters and I would like to thank all the friends I have made, both in Region 3 and through out the world, not only for their friendship but also their openness and honesty with me on issues and concerns that I dealt with the past 4 ½ years. When I step back in August, I will be starting a new adventure as a member of a wonderful organization with people that show the same honor and trust that has prevailed in our fire houses since the first fire fighters banded together to help their community.

Good luck and God bless as we move into the last of few months of my term. Thank you for all your help and dedication.

Loyal to Our Duty,



Tim Reinard
Director
Region 3