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pell
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Newsletter Editor



**Red Knights
International Firefighters
Motorcycle Club, Inc.**

www.redknightsmc.com

To All Members and Friends,

It was a great summer for many of us. I was fortunate enough to put on over 10,000 miles this year via two wheels. There are always great opportunities to ride – alone, with Peg, with others for an afternoon out or as a participant in the many charitable rides and events that our chapters sponsor. As the Red Knights continue to grow there are more and more opportunities to ride in many different areas with fellow Red Knights from many walks of life. Just visit our web site and look at all the rides that our members have listed on the *EVENTS* page or the pictures they have submitted on our picture pages. What are the chapters doing around you? Take the time to participate in other chapters' events as well as your own. It can be a lot of fun and a chance to meet new members.

To all of the members of Ontario-1 - **THANKS** for a great convention. We are also all looking forward to next year's convention and once again spending time in the "Big Apple" with all our brothers and sisters from NYC.

With all the bad storms that occurred down south this fall it has proven once again how close the firefighter family is as well as our Red Knights family. I would like to pass on to all our members from all the chapters that were affected in any way by the terrible disasters that we are here and will be here for whatever help you may need now or any time in the future.

This holiday season is going to be a tough one for many of our members and their families in the southern United States. PLEASE, by yourself or as a chapter, please donate to the Hurricane Katrina relief fund that has been set up by the Red Knights to assist our displaced members. Many of our members are going to need our help for a long period of time, so dig deep. If our roles were reversed I know each one of these members would be there for us, so let's be there for them. If they need help with rebuilding I will be there to offer my support in any way that I can.

I would like to take the time to thank all the members that elected me for another term as your International President. I would also like you, the membership, to know that this will be my last term and I want you to start thinking about who you would like to see come in as my replacement in 2007. It has been a lot of fun over the years as well as a lot of work, and I wouldn't have changed it for all the money in the world. I hope that I have met or exceeded the expectations of all those that elected me to the roles I have served in over the years. I also know that those that follow me will continue to have a lot of work in front of them – but they will have a great group of people to work with through the International Officers and the membership. We are growing at a good rate, BUT along with that growth there will always be challenges to manage. We all need to work together today and throughout our future to manage that growth effectively.

The holiday season is coming quickly and those of us in the colder climates are starting to think about putting the bikes away. With Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years just around the corner, Peg and I we would like to wish all our members and there families, joyous times and a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,
Ed & Peg Brouillet

Congratulations and thank you to Ontario-1 and all the Red Knights who participated in the 2005 convention in Toronto it was a great time!

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New York City (Fire Riders) will be hosting the 2006 Convention from August 10-13, 2006.

Plans are in the works for a great NYC convention. The preliminary schedule include a BBQ at "Killarney's Cottage" in Rego Park, Queens, and a professionally guided six-hour bus tour of the city starting in Uptown Manhattan .

Saturday's events will include our annual banquet plus a ride on a NYC Fire Boat on the Hudson River with a stop at the WTC site for a prayer.

Look out NYC, here we come! (Watch [www.nycfireriders.com](http://www.nycfireriders.com) and the Red Knights Web Page for updated information).

Congratulations to Ed Brouillet, Leo Patry, and Graham Clark on their re-elections to the International Board, and also to Lynn Komandt, John Rucinski and Steve Chappell on their respective elections to the board. Best wishes to all the Board members in their duties to the RKMC.

Thank you also goes out to Joe Conroy, Dave Emery and Carl Meyers for their past service to the board.

Massachusetts Chapter-1 was the first Chapter of the Red Knights back in 1982 and their chapter leadership is spearheading the drive to build a memorial to all our members past. The town of Boylston, Massachusetts has agreed to allow the Red Knights to erect this memorial on the grounds of the Boylston Fire Station. A very fitting tribute, since this is where the Red Knights were born.

Hopes are to have this memorial ready for dedication by our 25th anniversary in 2007. It is you the members, and the individual chapters that will make this fund drive and the memorial for all our members – past – present – and future a true success and a monument that has meaning for each of us.

The Memorial Committee has been meeting and they have also set up an account for the memorial fund. Please consider supporting the fund with donations and fundraisers from all the chapters. Also, please support the planning work of the committee and share with them any ideas that you have on what the Red Knights Memorial should be.

|                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Y</b>es,</p> <p>Pledge/Donation: \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Personal<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Club<br/> Please check appropriate Box</p> | <p>I want to support the efforts of the Red Knights to raise money for the Red Knights Motorcycle Club Memorial.</p>                                                                                     |                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Name: _____</p>                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>Chapter: _____ (If applicable)</p> |
|                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Address: _____</p>                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Please make checks payable to:<br/> <b>Red Knights International Memorial Fund</b><br/> Shrewsbury Municipal Employees Federal Credit Union<br/> PO Box 227, Shrewsbury, MA 01545 — (508)845-6755</p> |                                       |

Red Knights to meet at the Gettysburg Bike Week, July 6-9, 2006!  
HOSTED BY PA. CHAPTER 12

Hello to all Red Knight chapters! Pennsylvania Chapter 12 is planning a Red Knight gathering at the **Gettysburg Bike Week** on July 6-9<sup>th</sup> 2006. Here are some of the things that are going to be happening:

The Gettysburg Bike Week committee would like to do something to honor the firefighters on Friday night of that week. Saturday morning the RKMC will have a police escorted ride to the National Fire Academy in Emmittsburg, Maryland to visit the Fallen Firefighter Memorial.

After the Emmittsburg stop a very nice ride about 60 miles through the state forests and a lunch stop is being planned with a ride planned by RK-PA-15.

Time will also be available to take advantage of the planned activities at the Gettysburg Bike Week festivities. We are also planning for a buffet dinner Saturday night at the Eisenhower Inn for our Red Knights brethren. (We will need 50 people minimum for this event).

Pre-planning is very important because certain events, like the visit to Emmittsburg, require prior approval including a list of people attending.

Please discuss this in your local chapters to see if there is an interest from the members. Cost for lodging at this time at the Eisenhower are \$120.00 a night. There will be information on the International web site as more becomes available as well as on our chapter page at [www.redknightpa12.org](http://www.redknightpa12.org). If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thanks and ride safe.

Brian Sames,  
President PA-Chapter 12/PA State Representative  
BDSames@comcast.net – H 215-538-1238

Welcome to all our new MALs and new chapters. The Red Knights now have over 300 members-at-large (including members in Europe) and 223 chapters.

We now have two new chartered chapters overseas with Austria-1 and Okinawa-1!

Welcome also to New York-25, 26 & 27, Ohio-11, West Virginia-2, Ontario-14 & 15, Alberta-7 & 8, New Hampshire-5, 6, & 7, Iowa-1, Nebraska-2, Georgia-12 & 13, New Jersey 7, 17, 18, & 19, Pennsylvania-6, Illinois-11, Louisiana-6, New Mexico-2, Delaware-2, Michigan-4, Minnesota-4, and Kentucky-3

**Welcome everyone!**

**Have you and your chapter sent in your submission for the RKMC 25th Anniversary History Book? Be part of this important publication.**

# the Chapters



## What is your chapter up to?

Let us know what your chapter does throughout the year that may be of interest to your brother and sister Red Knights. Brag a little (in the newsletter and on the web page). Send our newsletter editor info and pictures on your chapter events!

Members of RKMIL 2 participated in the Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run on June 18th, 2005. At the site there is a Middle East War Memorial put up by the motorcycle community of Illinois. At present time the wall consists of 5 large granite stones all engraved with the names of soldiers that have lost their life in the Middle East for our freedom. It's a wonderful memorial to the men and women of the U.S. military, both those who have lost their lives and all those who have served.



Deb Pater, RK-IL-2 Road Captain with Madie (2 months back from Iraq) and Dan Kasper (13 days back from Afghanistan).

Maryland 3 had a special Fathers Day this year in helping out a family that had been through some tough times. Their son Hunter Nock received severe burns from a campfire and needed several surgeries.



The family was in need of some financial help and members of Maryland 3 made a trip to the home on Father's Day to present them with a check for \$500.00 to help out with the bills. While there Hunter got a ride with Road Captain Jerry Rhue in his side car.

## Florida-1 supports the drive to raise funds for the Red Knights Memorial

Florida Chapter 1 is selling RKMIL ball hats to raise money for the Red Knights International Memorial. The price of the hat is \$15.00. All of the profit goes to the Memorial Fund. Shipping is free.

Anyone interested in making a purchase please contact Jack Downs at 12040 S.W. 26 Court. Davie, Florida 33330, telephone (954) 474-1644 or E-Mail Jack at [rkmcch1@mindspring.com](mailto:rkmcch1@mindspring.com)

## Hello Fellow Red Knights,

Plans are underway for the 2006 Southeast Regional & the Red Knights of Texas Conventions next May. It looks like we will have a large crowd to help experience our southern hospitality.

Who likes Mud Bugs? Frog Legs maybe? Cajun music to jitterbug or waltz, some classic rock & blues to help you enjoy your visit?

Look for more information via the web page as plans develop. Looking forward to seeing you all in the spring.

David Die,  
Co-Chairman 2006 Southeast Regional & Red Knights of Texas Convention

On Sept 18, 2005 RED KNIGHTS MC NY Chapter 27 completed their first memorial ride, held in memory of a LEO killed in the line of duty. The two hour run went from the Minerva Fire House through Olmstedville, Schroon Lake, North Hudson, Newcomb, Minerva and arrived at Sporty's "Iron Duke" Saloon where a pork & turkey dinner was served and prizes were drawn. Escort for the run was provided by the Essex Co. Sheriffs Dept. and the NY State Police.

Of the 236 bikes on the ride many 1%'ers, Blue Knights, Red Knights and AMA clubs attended beside Antique Police Car Clubs. At the end over \$6000.00 was donated to Eric's family.

## Gathering of our *Clan* at Americade!

Was it HOT in Lake George this year? After the north-east suffered through the month of May with over 22 days of rain and cool temperatures, June came in with a clap of thunder and Americade saw the hottest and most humid weather of the season... with temperatures in the 80's and 90's all week! I'll say it was hot!

Throughout the week the weather was having us all dodge thunderstorms; but with the air conditioning working great guns in the Forum, it was a cool time viewing the indoor vendors. Monday's storms were severe and even flooded out some of the vendors in tent city and they had to be pumped out by the LGFD. But by morning they were all dried out and ready to take our money.

Wednesday evening the Red Knights hosted the Americade three-course dinner held at Roaring Brook Ranch. Over 300 people took advantage of the great food and Red Knight reputation. They were not disappointed as after being welcomed by International President Ed Brouillet, an assembly line of Red Knights dispersed the 96 door prizes that were donated for the dinner. Thanks go out to all the chapters and all the individuals who helped make the dinner a success with your donated prizes.

On Thursday the International Board held a marathon 6-1/2 hour spring business meeting. One of the decisions made was to move the date of the spring meeting earlier in the year. This is so the meeting can be held prior to the 90 day notice limit for bylaw changes to presented at the convention.

Thursday night saw a great spread hosted by New York 12 at the Red Knight Open House at the Lake George FD. Over 250 RK members and friends signed the guest book and shared camaraderie throughout the late afternoon and evening. A number of chapters also set up shop making their RKMC wares available for all the members. Lynn Komandt, the newest addition to the International Board was also set up selling RKMC merchandise available through the Quartermaster.

Even with the hot and humid weather nearly 100 Red Knights made it out to participate in the



Cliff Eldridge, long-time treasurer of RK Mass-2 was honored with a presentation from the International Board at the open house at the LGFD for his many years of service to the club.

Cliff is the longest serving chapter officer in all the Red Knights, serving as chapter treasurer for 22 years. He will be stepping down from the post this fall when he retires from the Leominster Fire Department.

Presenting the award is International President Ed Brouillet.

Americade Parade. A legion of bikes with riders adorned with fire helmets rolled down Canada Street led by an array of bikes sporting flags and group colors followed by all the HD Firefighter Specials that were on scene, and then the rest of our attending membership. Throughout the parade those watching the parade showed their thanks to the firefighters with loud applause. It was a great time.

Even if you did not participate in all the events available to the Red Knights, Americade is a fantastic rally. The Adirondack Mountains around Lake George offer some of the best riding in the northeast with hundreds of places to park your bike and enjoy the inspiring views, great food, and places to shop. Look at you 2006 calendar and mark the first week of June off and come join us in Lake George.

## Red Knights' statistics at Americade:

1. A great time was had by all.
2. No one ever said it was too cold to ride!
3. The Red Knights hosted the Americade Dinner on Wednesday night to a capacity crowd of over 300 people...
4. ...and gave away 96 door prizes!
5. Ed Brouillet and Bob Laford presented a seminar on Long-distance ride planning to a crowd of over 60 Americaders at Roaring Brook.
6. New York-12 did a great job at the LGFD feeding over 250 Red Knights and friends
7. Nearly 100 Red Knights colored the Americade parade for the thousands of on-lookers lining Canada Street.

August 12, 2005

To All Board Members,

*The past 12 months in the SE Region has been very exciting. The SE Region has expanded with at least one Chartered Chapter in every state within the Region and a state representative in all 15 states. Three newly chartered State Associations and 5 states requesting applications for state association charters. Along with these state associations we have organized a Regional Association called "DIXIE" Confederation Of Southern Chapters with a full slate of Regional officers installed into office and actively working with a Bylaws & Constitution committee which should have a finished draft to submit to the International before the close of 2005 along with a request for Charter Membership.*

*I have been fortunate to have a group of people working with me as State Reps and "DIXIE", CSC executive board officers who are focused and in agreement to a common goal - that being - "promoting the Red Knight tradition wherever we are.*

I filed the above report on August 12 with visions of returning home and continuing with good news and prosperity in the SE Region, but August 25, 2005 changed all the good news coming from South Florida where I live.

Then hurricane Katrina hit us dead center. As everyone knows, Katrina hit a devastating blow to the gulf coast of the United States and a deeper blow to the Red Knights family in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi – leaving many Red Knights homeless in the aftermath of her path on August 29.

On August 31, 2005 I received a call from Chris Gadway our "DIXIE" CSC quartermaster asking to put into place a Katrina relief program for those who are going to need our help. I started making phone calls to the "DIXIE" CSC executive board and within 48 hours we had made contact with members in Alabama and Mississippi inquiring what damage they had and how they fared the storm. I was amazed to hear everyone from those states were OK. Some had damage to their homes but everyone was in pretty good shape. Late on September 1st we made contact with Steve Guillot, president of LA-1 and LA state representative. He and his family had evacuated to Shreveport, LA to evade the path of Katrina. They were OK but had no idea where everyone else was. The rest of the week was spent trying to locate 140 Red Knights members from LA-1, LA-3,

LA-4, LA-5, 5-MAL's and their families who were homeless and stranded all over the south. We found many had evacuated to the Texas area and were with their families and safe. We started a communication path and were able to get information out and receive information back relaying through several stations.

Through the efforts of Flint Breeding, Texas State Rep, and the Texas State Association as well as Dallis Johnson, Alabama State Rep, and Alabama State Association we were able to locate and set up housing for any RKMC members who needed assistance. We contacted the International Executive officers requesting their assistance in contacting all RKMC chapters to seek funding for a hurricane "Disaster Relief Fund." With their help a fund has been established and a "First Response" assistance is in place through contributions from many RKMC members and RKMC supporters. The following is an exact correspondence I sent out to the "DIXIE" CSC officers:

To All,

*First let me express my gratitude for all the work that all the Dixie officers are putting forth to assist in this situation. We have established immediate funding from the International Red Knights. The money is in our treasurer's account which is controlled by Jimmy Ledbetter in Texas and regulated by the "DIXIE" CSC executive officers. I feel a need for a plan of action to be established so these funds can be made available to displaced Red Knights and their families in the aftermath of the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina.*

*The International President has directed International Secretary Snodgrass to contact all Chapter Presidents requesting donations. These donations will be sent to the International Treasurer Leo Patry. Donations received by Leo will be logged and recorded and combined in an account, and checks will be issued to Jimmy Ledbetter for disbursements to members in need. Any donations that you may receive can be forward to Leo Patry or directly to Jimmy Ledbetter at PO BOX 179, Alvin, Texas, 77512.*

*Any members that you know of that need assistance you may contact Jimmy Ledbetter or Gene Downs.*

*Housing has been established and made available through the combined efforts of the Texas State Association. The contact person of the Texas State association is Flint Breeding, cell 214-535-2859. Housing has also been made available by efforts of the Alabama State Association. The contact person for the Alabama*

*State Association is Dallis Johnson, cell 334-391-3558.*

Plan of action:

#1 Priority is to make contact and locate all displaced members within the states of Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. Along with the location of these members, establish their needs for immediate relief such as money made available for food and necessities. Find out if housing is needed and if so make contact with Texas Association or Alabama Association and assist in routing these members to the nearest location.

#2 Priority is that after these members have returned to their residences, evaluate the damage that may have occurred during the storm and what relief and assistance is needed by these members to maintain a quality of life.

#3 Priority is to identify those members who have lost their residence and would require long term housing and to assist these members in relocating to other long term housing. Of these members who have spouses who were active in fire-rescue, deployed to maintain their working operations, assistance needs to be provided for fuel for these members to travel to where their families are being housed back to their work stations. I would suggest the possibilities of purchasing gas cards and phone cards to be issued to these families instead of issuing cash. Grocery stores need to be identified and food cards purchased and issued. Gift cards for Wal-Mart and Target could be purchased as well.

It is of utmost importance that our members be found and their needs identified and reestablish the best quality of life available.

**"WE WILL LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND!"**

It is with sincere hopes and prayers that by the time this is released and printed in the RKMC newsletter that all our members and families are back home safe.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Gene Downs  
SE Regional Director

## Were you in Toronto? — RKMC International Convention

Thanks to all for coming to our "Party" and we look forward to seeing you all again next year in New York.

Norm Clapham and the members of Ontario I

Here are some "snippets" from the convention hosted by Ontario-1 in August. Thanks to all our hosts for a great event!

- Thursday started off with members checking in and getting reacquainted in the hospitality room. Along with the raffle table the ladies of Ontario I got together and created a calendar for 2006, "The Lady's of the Knights" which turned out to be a big hit. Calendars are still available for any members who may wish to purchase one with the proceeds going to charity.
- The Thursday BBQ began with a ride that took about an hour to go to Elgin Park in Uxbridge through the countryside. Ontario XI did a great job in assisting Dave Marcellus and Carl Cornell in getting things ready at the park. Entertainment was provided by Meredith Cutting, a soloist and a Blue Knight, who played a variety of tunes and was a big hit. The picnic style fare, pork, sausage, salads, corn on the cob and pies for dessert, was plentiful and everyone left with full tummys for the ride back to the hotel and some more hospitality room socializing. The room was shoulder to shoulder for quite some time.
- Friday dawned with Mother Nature being uncooperative. The city, CN Tower, and harbor tour left with 42 members on board. The first part through the city took 2 hours ending at the CN Tower for a one hour tour of the Tower. Some of the members were fascinated at standing on a window looking down at the ground almost 2000 feet below. The next stop was for the harbour tour with lunch being served on board. One of the highlights was when the Fire Boat, William Lyon MacKenzie, came out into the harbour and put on a water show for our guests. The tour guide was heard to say "WOW THEY DON'T DO THAT FOR JUST ANYONE".

Unfortunately the scheduled ride to the Kirkfield Lift Locks and Port Perry had to be cancelled. The weather did break enough for about 15 bikes to take a ride to a new mall, Vaughan Mills Mall. The big hit was the Bass Pro Shop where they have airplanes hanging from the ceiling and a huge glass walled tank stocked with game fish. If it pertains to outdoors you'll find it there.

- The Mackie's BBQ was off and on again and 25 members attended the ride to Mackie's in spite of some rain. The member's apparently enjoyed the shopping as it has been rumored that one thousand dollars were spent there.
- Some other members found their own entertainment on Friday and one in particular ended up at the Woodbine Race Track where they also have slot machines. That member, Gene Downs, fed one machine about \$20 and the machine was so appreciative that it gave him back a bit more. Way to go Gene. Gene was in such a good mood that his generosity spilled over and he bought Debbie \$100.00 in raffle tickets.

- Saturday morning was the General Meeting (and was somewhat uneventful since the club seems to be running rather smoothly these days with our rapid growth continuing). It lasted about 3 ½ hours and the important points are as follows:

-International bylaws state that ten percent of the chapters must be represented at the convention meeting to conduct business. It is a concern to the organization that only 30 chapters were represented, which was barely over the 10% quorum! *How can changes be made to entice more of our membership to participate in the convention?*

-Reports were read and accepted. Our net worth is \$101,944.71. That is much better than the financial reports that were available a few years ago.

-Inquires for chapters have been received from as far away as England, Australia, Iceland, Germany, Japan, and Iraq.

Lynn Komandt, the new Quartermaster, discussed designing a Memorial Patch for the 25<sup>th</sup> and asked for suggestions. It was also mentioned to design a patch for Junior Members.

-Future conventions were discussed. New York provided an information sheet with their plans for next year's convention. Don Parker gave a report for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary convention in Massachusetts for 2007. Bill Snodgrass reported on plans for 2008 in Sandusky, Ohio. Jack Downs reported on 2009 in Florida — unknown exactly where it will be since the hotel they were planning to use blew away with the last year's hurricanes.

-The host chapter opted to give half of the money collected for "the host chapter's charity" to the Red Knights Memorial Fund.

- Saturday also offered the attendees a short ride and demonstration of the impressive State Police Motorcycle Drill Team. They rode in formation and saluted the International President during the exhibition. There were a lot of ooooh's and aaaah's throughout the show. First Lady, Peg Brouillet, was even escorted to the middle of the demonstration area to video the bikes coming directly at her as they criss-crossed just in front of her. Peg remarked that it was quite an adrenaline rush.
- The banquet, Saturday night, started off with cocktails. After everyone was seated the executive was piped into the hall and then the newly elected members were sworn in by Kevin Kerrivan. The memorial reading followed this. Dinner was served, awards were presented and the dancing started. By appearances everyone had a good old fashioned time.

The Sunday morning breakfast brought with it hugs and thanks for another great convention. Mother Nature again this year was not very nice to our travelers as they left on Sunday. Fortunately the rain was sporadic and not coming down very hard.

Everyone returned home safely and is looking forward to next year in New York City. Hope to see you there too!

## Report from the International Vice-president

To start off I want to thank Ontario 1 for hosting our convention this year. Despite the weather we had a good time. I left the travel arrangements up to my wife Judy. She found a very reasonable non stop flight for us. So from Ft. Lauderdale to Ontario in 2 hours and 33 minutes sounded fine to me. I love to ride, and she loves to fly, so we compromised. Plus it gave us more time to spend in Canada. Even though the pre-trip to Niagara Falls got canceled we went on our own. It was more than we expected looking up from the boat at all that water coming at us. We get like little kids when we take road trips now. We were the only ones with our life preservers on (just kidding). I think we need to get out of the house more now that I am retired. It was great seeing our old friends again. And it was nice to see some new faces also.

We grow larger as a group every year but the convention attendance remains a constant number. I wonder why? Maybe we need to do a study as to why more members don't come to the annual conventions. I think they are fun. Judy and I haven't missed one since we joined in 1994. The number of meetings we have to attend have been chopped in half which gives us more time to ride, sit around the pool, sight see, and party. I invite everyone

to come to the next convention which will be in New York.

The elections are over and I want to congratulate President Ed Brouillet and Treasurer Leo Patry on their re-election. And congratulations to the Regional Directors elect representing the North East John Rucinski, the Central Region Director Steve Chappell, and our newly elected Quartermaster Lynn Komandt. I am looking forward to working with this board. My thanks go out to our now past Executive Board Members Dave Emery, Carl Meyers, and Joe Conroy who were there for us, putting in lots of hours of hard work. Thank you so very much. Also elected for a third term was William Jacobs who will assist with the Members At Large group. William represented the MAL members at the Convention before, during and after the meeting. He will continue working in this capacity for one year. William recently underwent heart surgery and we were glad to see him looking so good at convention. His wife Claudia must be a pretty good nurse. Another work horse I can't say enough about is Bob Laford. Bob is constantly updating the roster to eliminate the high return of the newsletter we send out. Return mail as you know just runs the cost up. Bob is also in charge of updating the data on our web site. A job you couldn't give away. So Bob my hat is off to you, thanks for all of your help.

We have a great team on the Board and I expect great things from our meetings this year. If you stand back and look at the direction of the Red Knights over the past year and a half you will see a total restructure. With that has come a different attitude and sense of direction. The new Board has already proven they can handle the task assigned to them. Things have changed. The change I see has enabled us to unharness energy the likes of which has never been demonstrated before. The path we are taking now is uncharted. I feel it is a good path and the right path as will soon be proven. Given the chance I believe this Executive Board is going to take Red Knights to a level that you and I have not dreamed. I feel in the next three to five years the Red Knights will be one of the most respected and powerful Motorcycle Clubs in the country. Good things are in the pressure cooker as we speak and you will see the results of what I'm talking about within the next twelve to eighteen months. The bigger the deal the more time it takes to develop. I hope you will enjoy the ride.

My brother Gene, sister Amy and I with our entire family thank everyone for the cards, letters, flowers, potted plants sent to us when our mother passed on June 9. Mom lived with my wife Judy, daughter Ginger and me for the past three years. Her health started failing in December. Hearing from so many members cheered us up a lot. I will not forget how much the Red Knights have impacted my life. I am grateful for it. Thank you again. May all of you have a terrific holiday. God bless all of the folks in Louisiana and Texas and any other disaster area that may have occurred after this article was written. Bring our troops home safe.

Fraternally  
Jack C. Downs, Vice-president  
R. K. M. C. International

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TAKEN FROM THE EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY'S REPORT,  
PRESENTED AUGUST 10, 2005  
AT ANNUAL CONVENTION IN  
TORONTO CANADA

1. Working with the International Treasurer a numbered system has been designed and put in place for the issuing and tracking of new chapter applications. This allows us to know where and when applications are sent and helps to track applications until they are received back.
2. The Regional Directors are notified when an application is sent to a chapter in their Region and receive a list of any outstanding applications in their Regions every 60 days.
3. From 9/01/04 to 12/31/04, 57 applications for new chapters were mailed and 29 became new chapters (51%). By August of '05, we have sent out 47 applications for new chapters and have awarded 18 new chapters (38%). There are 7 application requests pending including the United Kingdom, Austria, Iraq, Iceland, Germany and Japan.
4. A data base has been set up for when and where we issue new chapter charters. The Regional Directors are notified about new Charters.
5. A data base, system, and application has been established for both State/Provincial Associations and Regional Associations. The State/Province Representatives will request an Association application from the Regional Director who then in turn requests one be sent from the Secretary.
6. The Secretary and Dick Morse have continued work on the revision of the International By-Laws.
7. An Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) manual has been developed for the International Executive Board.
8. A data base has been set up with K & K insurance to track the insurance that we provide to our chapters.  
To date we have insured 17 events for our chapters.
9. 1<sup>st</sup> Responder News has been contacted and we are now advertising in 11 issues covering New England, New Jersey, New York, Long Island, Pennsylvania, California, Florida, Georgia, Ohio and the Firehouse Expo Edition. We are now looking into advertising on the west coast.
10. We now have data bases set up for equipment inventories, for deceased members, and e-mail voting. Working with the International Treasurer we now have a data base of Chapter Charter Locations and dates.

**Is your chapter planning an event that will involve the public?**

The Red Knights will provide \$1,000,000 liability coverage through the K & K Insurance Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana for motorcycle shows, bike washes, breakfast/dinners, guided tours, swap meets, poker/toy runs, social gatherings/parties, parades, trade show and dances sponsored by chartered chapters of the International. (Contact the International Secretary for costs). *For events other than those listed contact the Executive Secretary for more information.*

Chapters/State Associations need to contact the Executive Secretary for an application and more information 30 days before the event. A Certificate of Insurance will be issued to the Chapter/Association hosting the event. Failure to give the Executive Secretary the allotted time may result in your Chapter/Association not receiving the insurance for your event.

A Release and waiver of liability form must be signed by all attending members and returned to the Executive Secretary after the event being covered. This is a requirement set in place by K&K Insurance. These waivers must be maintained by the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club for a period of seven years. Failure to return the signed waivers may result in your Chapter/Association not being allowed insurance in the future.

For more information contact the International Secretary.

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*From the Office of the Executive Secretary*

*Greetings Brothers and Sisters,*

When I suggested to the members of Ohio that we start a State Association in 2002 and presented it to the International Board at the Annual Convention in 2003 for approval, I had no idea of how this idea would grow in the Red Knights. We now have 6 State Association and 5 pending applications. We have seen the structure of the Red Knights change to now include 4 Regions with Regional Directors and are looking at adding more as we grow. During this time we have seen State/Province Representatives added and one Regional Association approved.

When hurricane Katrina came ashore in the Gulf Shore states, we saw what having these Associations can do in times of an emergency. Under the direction of Southern Director, Gene Downs, the Associations from Alabama, Texas, Florida and Ohio went to work to help our brothers and sisters and their families. Money was raised, housing provided, support was given and our members knew that they were not alone. To date over \$6000.00 has been raised and is earmarked for the Red Knight members in the Gulf.

We all know that firefighters are there to help when there is an emergency and now we have a system in place to help our own. If your State or Province does not have an association in place, let me encourage you to contact your Representative about starting one in you area.

I want to congratulate John Rucinski of New York 12 for winning this year's Perry Carter Award for the Red Knight of the Year. Details on this award were published in the Spring 2005 Newsletter. Now is the time to start thinking of who you want to nominate for this award next year.

Please, remember, that I am here to serve you, the membership. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and suggestions

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bill "Popeye" Snodgrass  
International Executive Secretary



## **RED KNIGHTS Grand Tour**

### ***What is the Grand Tour?***

When the club was young, the easiest way to tell others about it was by word of mouth. This meant that the members had to get out to visit other firefighters in their areas, and one of the best ways to do that was to visit Fire Stations. Someone came up with the idea of rewarding members who made a certain number of visits with a certificate and a pin. Proof of these visits was needed and so the idea of Grand Tour was born.

### **How do I earn a Grand Tour Pin**

In order to earn a Grand Tour Pin you must first get an application form from the G.T. chairperson, then during the course of one (1) riding season you must visit nine (9) fire Stations whose names begin with the letters G R A N D T O U R, or twelve Fire Stations beginning with any letter of the alphabet (this is for members who live in some of the more remote areas and may not be able to come up with Stations beginning with the letters g r a n d t o u r ). You must have a picture of you and your motorcycle taken at each Station, with the name sign visible. Co-riders may also earn a pin and a rider and co-rider may have their picture taken together.

When you have completed your visits simply fill out the application form and return it with your pictures to the GT chairperson and he/she will send you your certificate and pin.

Photo albums will be kept displaying pictures of everyone who has completed the Grand Tour and will be available at all future conventions. So if you would like to see this program continue please get out there and support it.

Henry Heideman  
hheideman@cogeco.ca  
905-372-6073  
Grand Tour Chairman

*Join the RKM  
Grand Tour!  
Participate by  
yourself, with  
a few friends,  
or with your  
chapter and  
help spread  
the word  
about the Red  
Knights to fire  
departments  
around your  
area*

If you have pictures from your **GRAND TOUR** that you would like posted on the web page, get them to our editor and they will be posted at [www.redknightsmc.org/GT.HTM](http://www.redknightsmc.org/GT.HTM)



Al and Charlotte Lawrence with Steve Nicholl all from Alberta-3 in Calgary at one of their stops on a Grand Tour.

Some 20 hours (3 day trips) and 1500 kilometers after beginning the "tour" they reached their goal. Al said, "It really wasn't about the pin at all. It gave us a destination to ride, in the company of good people, who enjoy the scenery and sunshine."

The 65th annual Sturgis Rally is now history... But here are some interesting statistics about the event:

#### Estimated Attendance:

1990 - 50th - 400,000  
2000 - 60th - 633,000  
2002 - 62nd - 450,000  
2003 - 63rd - 502,000  
2004 - 64th - 514,951  
2005 - 65th - 525,250

#### Tons of Garbage

Hauled:  
2005 - 65th - 795.18

#### Marriage Licenses

Issued:  
2005 - 65th - 109

#### Vendor Licenses

Issued:  
005 - 65th - 901

#### Rally Related

##### Deaths:

2004 - 64th - 4  
2005 - 65th - 6

##### Parking Tickets

2005 - 65th - 273

##### Traffic Violations

2005 - 65th - 115

##### Jailed - Meade Co. Sheriff

2005 - 65th - 448

##### Hospital Emergency Room Visits:

2005 - 65th - 317

Taxable Sales / Temporary Vendors:  
2005 - 65th - 14.9 million

At the International Convention the newly established Perry Carter award for excellence was awarded for the first time.

The first award went to Perry's wife, Pat, in recognition for the work and dedication that Perry gave to our organization and to acknowledge the years of support given by Pat to the Red Knights.

The second Perry Carter Award was given to John Rucinski from New York for his work in spreading the news about the Red Knights. John is also the newly elected Eastern District Director.

**Come to New York City for Convention 2006!**

**Red Knights International Firefighters  
MOTORCYCLE CLUB**

**2006 Twenty-third Annual Convention  
August 10-11-12-13, 2006 New York City**

Convention Center: Crowne Plaza Hotel at LaGuardia Airport,

**Convention Registration (\$130 per person U.S. Funds) includes**

-Registration; -Program; -Welcome Bag; -Pin;  
-Hospitality Room; -Group Tours;

**\*\*Saturday Night Cocktail Reception** (with walking servers offering hors d'oeuvres and self-serve chafing dish selections), followed by sit-down Dinner-Dance with appetizer, salad, choice of a beef, chicken, or fish entree and dessert\*\*

Sunday Farewell Breakfast Buffet

Raffle Ticket for Free Weekend Stay at Crowne Plaza.

104-04 Ditmars Boulevard, East Elmhurst, NY 11369 tel. (718) 457-6300 [www.crowneplaza.com](http://www.crowneplaza.com).

Amenities Include: Irons, Coffee Makers, Phones with Data Ports, Voicemail, Heated Indoor Swimming Pool, Whirlpool, Sauna, Sundeck, Exercise Center, Free Shuttle Service to/from LaGuardia Airport, Free In-Room Movies, Gift Shop, Fax Machine, Car Rental Desk, Limousine Desk, ATM Machine, Currency Exchange, Full-service Restaurant and light menu Bar/Lounge on site.

Location: Ditmars Boulevard between 24th and 25th Avenues, across the Grand Central Parkway from LaGuardia Airport in New York City's Borough of Queens just minutes from Midtown Manhattan, Shea and Yankee Stadiums, National Tennis Center, Flushing Meadow Park, Belmont Racetrack.

Room Rate: **Convention Rate: US\$ 95.00** plus taxes / per night for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. (Mention Red Knights/Fire Riders for convention rate.) We may be able to arrange this rate for extended stays, Wednesday and Sunday nights based on guaranteed participation. Inquire at hotel when checking-in.

Parking: Secure parking available at hotel for cars and motorcycles for US\$ 5.00 per day, unlimited access in and out. You park yourself.

Directions: From North, West or South: I-87, I-80 or I-95 to Triborough Bridge to Queens. Cars and motorcycles may stay on Grand Central Parkway to 94th Street exit, (Exit 6). Follow Ditmars Blvd. for 0.6 miles (1.0 km) through traffic circle (stay on Ditmars) to hotel on the right side. Vehicles with trailers must exit immediately after crossing bridge at Astoria Blvd. (Trailers are not permitted on the Grand Central Parkway. Highway signs that state "Passenger Cars Only" do allow motorcycles but no trailers.) Follow Astoria Blvd. for 2.2 miles (3.6 km) to 94th Street, turn left. Go 0.5 miles (0.8 km) to Ditmars Blvd. Turn right, then through traffic circle as above. From Northeast: Bronx -Whitestone Bridge to Whitestone Expressway to Astoria Blvd. exit, (Exit 13). Once on Astoria Boulevard, take first right onto Ditmars Blvd. Go 0.6 miles (1.0 km) to hotel on left.

(For travelers with electronic maps or who are GPS equipped, hotel coordinates are: N 40° 46' 03", W 73° 52' 00").

**Additional Activities:**

**Thursday Early Arrival Bar-B-Que:** Current plans are for a ride to "Killarney's Cottage" in Rego Park, Queens.  
(Additional US\$ 10.00 includes food.)

**Friday Bus Tour and Lunch:** Professionally guided six-hour tour starting in Uptown Manhattan includes visit to -Cathedral of Saint John the Divine that houses a memorial to the twelve firefighters lost in the 23rd Street building collapse of October 17, 1966; -Ride through "museum row" -Opportunity to disembark at Central Park at 72nd Street. -See "Conservatory Water," (better known as the Model Boat Pond); -Alice in Wonderland sculpture; -the John Lennon "Strawberry Fields" and the "Dakota." The tour continues with a visit to -Chinatown for shopping tour; -Lunch in Little Italy at Umberto's, -and a visit at the "Ground Zero" site. We are also trying to arrange a group visit to a nearby firehouse. (Additional US\$ 65.00 includes tour and family-style luncheon with salad, selected choice of entrees and dessert. Limited to 47 persons. Number may be increased depending upon increased demand).

**Saturday Afternoon Fireboat Tour:** Ride to Marine Company 1, Fireboat *John D. McKean* (limited to the first 100 to sign-up). See the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Governors' Island and New York Harbor. (Additional cost, if any, dependent upon whether or not a box lunch will be included.) Please make Money or Postal Order payable in US funds to:

**N.Y.C. Fire Riders Motorcycle Club**

**Convention Shirts:**

Tee Shirts US\$ 20.00  
Golf Shirts US\$ 35.00  
Pocket Shirts Price Pending

Ladies Tee Shirts US\$ 25.00

Mail Registration Form and Fees by July 1, 2006 to:  
Edward M. Olszewski  
54-67 82nd Street  
Elmhurst, NY 11373-4719

Inquiries, Phone (after 7:00 PM Eastern please):  
(718) 426-1922

E-Mail (preferred): [emolszewski@nycfireriders.com](mailto:emolszewski@nycfireriders.com)

**We will be making arrangements to accept  
registrations on-line by credit card through our  
website at [www.nycfireriders.com](http://www.nycfireriders.com).**

**Also check this website & the Red Knights International  
Website for updated convention information.**

(Registration forms will be made available online and will  
be included in Spring newsletter).

In April 2005 International Quartermaster Joe Conroy stepped down. We all thank Joe for his years of service to the Red Knights and the International Board. The quartermaster duties and the business conducted by the quartermaster have grown considerably under Joe's watch.

We also welcome our new International Quartermaster Lynn Komandt to the International Board. Lynn is a member of Ohio 1.

Visit the merchandise web page at [www.redknightsmc.com/CATALOG.HTM](http://www.redknightsmc.com/CATALOG.HTM) to view RKMC products available from the International and from Chapters.

A sea of hundreds of bikes were led by the Blue Knights and the Red Knights through the Village of Lake George for the Americade parade in June.



Have you visited the **Red Knights Message Board** on line? It is a great place to visit with others that are members and friends of the Red Knights. There is a forum for general discussion, one to list things for sale, one for Rides and Events, one for "Good and Welfare" to keep us informed of ill or injured members, and another specifically for Red Knights Officers to share ideas back and forth.

Visit the site online at [www.redknightsmc.com/forum](http://www.redknightsmc.com/forum).

**Correct (and legible) mailing addresses** are very important when you submit chapter rosters to the International Treasurer each year. Some rosters are hand written and difficult to read. Others have missing information. The Fall 2004 newsletter that went out last December had over 300 addresses that were "undeliverable" because of misinformation or illegible information.

To ensure that all our members receive their newsletter, please make sure that your mailing information is correct with your chapter — and chapter officers, please double check the addresses with your members before submitting the rosters to the International. Thanks.

Have you ever been traveling and thought, "Gee I don't know anyone around here. Where is the best place to eat, stay, or get my bike worked on?" That's what the Help-A-Knight program is for — to maintain a database of Red Knights who are willing to accept telephone calls and help fellow Red Knights. Some of the help may be for information, or other options you may help on is if a RK member can stay overnight, pitch a tent in your yard, or leave their bike at your house.

The **Red Knights Help-a-Knight** program available on line at [www.redknightsmc.org/HAK.pdf](http://www.redknightsmc.org/HAK.pdf) (You need Adobe Acrobat to read the file).

We will continually update the version that is available on our web page. To the right is the registration form to add or update your information in the H-A-K program.

Please look over your state listing and let our editor know if there are people listed who are no longer members of your chapters. Thank you.

### **RKMC Help-A-Knight Registration Form** *Please Print Information and Check All Statements That Apply*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St./Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

*X This is a **New** registration*  
*X This is a **Change** to my information*

*To Help-A-Knight I will: (circle appropriate numbers)*

1. *Take calls for information about my area. No Collect Calls.*
2. *Allow a Red Knight to stay overnight in my home*
3. *Allow a Red Knight to put up a tent on my property*
4. *Allow a Red Knight to leave a bike on my property*
5. *Bring my SAE tools to a Help-A-Knight who has broken down*
6. *Pick up a Red Knight's bike with my pick-up truck or trailer*
7. *Bring my Metric tools to Help-A-Knight who has broken down*
8. *Someone in my home speaks French*

**MAIL TO:**  
Bob LaFord  
276 West Road  
Petersham, MA 01366  
CALL: 978-724-3270  
E-MAIL:  
[rflaford@tiac.net](mailto:rflaford@tiac.net)

# Red Knights Motorcycle Club

c/o 276 West Road  
Petersham, MA 01366  
USA

www.redknightsmc.com

Look inside for information on the Red Knights' Hurricane Relief Efforts, Conventions in Toronto and New York City, Americade in Lake George, happenings around the chapters, and much, much more!

## Reminder to all Chapter Presidents International Membership Dues

Membership dues payable to the International run from January 1<sup>st</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. A grace period for payment is granted from January 1<sup>st</sup> till March 31<sup>st</sup>. After that date dues are subject to a **\$50.00 late payment fee.**

### 2006 Dues Rates:

There are eight classifications of membership:

1. **Charter Member** – An active member that has joined a chapter within one year of the chapter being chartered. See Section 4:08
2. **Active Member** – Is available to anyone who has been a member of the fire service, See Section 4:04
3. **Associate Member** – A person who has never been in the fire service. See section 4:05
4. **Social member** – The spouse, boyfriend (1) Girlfriend (1) offspring's of an Active or Associate member or member-at-Large. See Section 4:06
5. **Special Honorary Member** – Granted to a person of a recognized religion for the position of chapter chaplain. See Section 4:07
6. **Member-at-Large** – Persons who qualify for Active membership but are too far removed from any established chapter to join. See Section '2:01 & 2:01A
7. **Life membership** – See Section 2:01
8. **Compassionate Honorary Member** – See Section 2:01 (8)

Dues for new members joining a chapter shall be \$8.00 per member in their first year of membership and will be pro-rated at the rate of 25% reduction in the third quarter and 50% reduction in the fourth quarter.

- Active or Associate Member \$7.00 each
- Social or Honorary Member \$4.00 each
- Compassionate Honorary Member no charge
- New member any classification \$8.00

Dues for chapters are to be sent in U.S. funds to the International Treasurer. Please be sure to include a current membership roster which has the members Name, Address, Zip or postal code, Phone number including area code, and Email address if they have one. And lastly their membership status Active, Associate, Social, Honorary, Life or Compassionate Honorary. **Please ensure that the submitted roster is legible.**

Send funds and chapter rosters to Leo Patry, International Treasurer, 6000 Battersea Road, RR # 2, Battersea, Ontario, Canada, KOH 1H0. For further information contact Leo at 613 -353-1790 or treasurer@redknightsmc.com