

RKIFMC President 2017 Convention

Welcome to Syracuse! As with the majority of the current Board Officers, I have been to this city and the hotel next to the airport many, many times. We used to have our International Board meetings here in the spring and the fall. But we had to change, because in the spring and fall there was ALWAYS snow on the ground or falling while we were here. I guess winter is 6 or 7 months long. It's the first time I've been here in the summer, on my bike, great ride and a great place. A Huge thanks goes out to our hosts for making this a fun filled week of camaraderie and riding.

Your International Board has been hard at work over the last year as usual handling everyday business and new projects alike. We as officers have attended many local, state, provincial, regional and international events. Over the past year, I had the chance to attend many RK events, I was able to get to the Dixie, and the Yankee rallies as well as see many members at the Americade firehouse luncheon. 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. Over the last year, Dennis Hewett has taken on the role of being your International Chaplain. Dennis has taken on the old and some new tasks for his office. He has exceeded the expectations of me and the rest of the Board. Thank You Dennis for helping all the families and chapters during these difficult times.

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.

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 last year. If you 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 webmaster@redknightsmc.com while coping your regional director. George Colby is now taking care of all password resets. If you forgot your password, please email George at communications@redknightsmc.com .

After many years, Henry Heideman (ON 7) has stepped down as the Grand Tour Chair. The Grand Tour program was much the brain child of Henry. Through Henry's nearly two decades of work, the vast majority of members have participated in the program and we have not only more exposers, but many new members as well. It's also safe to say the majority of members sport some pretty cool patches that Henry has sent to them.

This year brought many new Committee Chairs. Special thanks goes to;
Chuck Weikel (MAL NJ) for taking on the daunting task of the By-Law Chair.
Dennis Hewett (NY22) for the very important role of the International Chaplain.
George Colby (MA 3) for tackling not only the required, but many additional tasks of the Communications Chair.
And,
Perry Lewin (AB 3) for taking on the role of Grand Tour Chairman.

Congratulations to Jason Collins of Australia 6 as the first Region 8 Director. 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 by not only all the members in the South Pacific but around the world.

Congratulations also to Richard "Spike" Ostiguy on being your new Vice President. We have seen your historical view melded with modern thoughts of this organization as a valuable asset to all of us. Thank you for bringing your knowledge and experience to the service of the membership.

I would like to also thank each of the officers of the International Board, the International Committees. This Board has an amazing depth of experience, knowledge and a cohesion that has allowed us to accomplish some incredible things. I am honored as I look forward to continuing my work for you.

This summer has brought a very big opportunity to the Red Knights. The Board took action on this once in a lifetime chance. We look forward to making a monumental announcement to the membership during the Annual Business Meeting, be there to be part of this great moment in Red Knight history.

"Loyal to Our Duty"
Chris Gadway
International President