

RKMC President End of Year 2015

An Amazing year 2015 has been. This year brought many great new things to the Red Knights. A convention that was hotter than _____. Thank You Texas for such a warm welcome. Next time please make it a little less warm!

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. In the fall I was able to attend the European rally and Association meeting in Switzerland. 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 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. 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".

With all the work on the history/anthology of the Red Knights now done, the only thing left is for it to go to print. For those that did not get a chance to purchase this or just wanted to see it first, keep an eye out at convention and on the Quartermasters page on the website 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.

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 midyear and the email accounts were moved over in August. 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. We all owe a huge thanks to our previous Webmaster, Tommy(NC12) for the countless hours he has spent keeping our site running for the last year plus. Keeping up with and trying to decipher what we send him is a chore to say the least. Thanks Tommy!

Over the last year plus Amanda "Smooches" Roun of New Jersey took on the daunting task of updating the Help-A-Knight roster. I am certain that she spent hundreds of hours verifying the roster because she first cross referenced the old HAK roster against the current membership removing names that were no longer with the Red Knights then she actually called each of us that made it past her first cull to double check that we were still interested in the program. If you want to sign up or you want more information about the HAK program, please reach out to helpaknight@redknightsmc.com so we can get you in on the next quarterly update. Amanda also Helped Scarlett Mullikin of Illinois in taking the "all chapters and MAL Facebook page" to new heights. Thank you Scarlett and Amanda for all you do for our club and congratulations on your Outstanding Contribution Awards! Wear your new patches proudly.

A special acknowledgement goes to past President Dave Emery for receiving the Perry Carter award. Congratulations on being named the Red Knight of the Year 2015. You are a mentor for us all.

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.

I would like to specifically thank each of the officers of the International Board, the International Committees and especially those who left their positions in 2015. I can honestly say I have NEVER worked with a finer group of men. Congratulations to the new officers and committee members who started serving your sentence.... oops I meant term; you got some shoes to fill. Time to step up, the rest of the board looks forward to your expertise and life experience to help us serve the membership. I am honored as I look forward to continuing my work for you.

“Loyal to Our Duty”
Chris Gadway
International President