

REGION SEVEN DIRECTOR

The last year, since the PEI annual convention, was a good year for the European Red Knights. My personal experience during my family's visit of USA and Canada last year was outstanding. To see the memorial was on top of my to do list. We met dozens of Red Knights and 4 founding fathers at our Red Knights Memorial in Boylston. That was a great experience.

During this year the European family keeps growing. We open new chapters in Belgium, Germany, Austria, and Italy and get a lot of new MALs. More members will follow.

The Europe Association (Association for all chapters and MALs in Region 7 Europe) establish an "Iron Butt Award". Those Region 7 members who ride 10.000 KM (6.220 miles) within one year are qualified for the Iron Butt patch. Nineteen European Red Knights received that patch last year.

In September 2014, we held our annual European meeting in Brugge / Belgium. The hosting chapter Belgium 2, President "Buba" and his team had done an outstanding job. As our VIP, we have been able to welcome Region 1 Regional Director and founding father Norm Beausoleil. His visit was very important for the European Red Knights. For most of the meeting visitors was the first "meet a founding father" experience. On behalf of our International President, Chris Gadway, we awarded Harris Puisais (France 1) and Steve Wiliamson (England 2) with the Presidents Merit Award for their outstanding work. The 2015 European meeting will be held in Switzerland, and will be hosted by Switzerland 2.

From 8th to 13th of June, 2015 the Red Knights promote their Club at the Interschutz in Hannover, Germany. Interschutz is world largest Fire exhibition with 1500 exhibitors from 51 different countries. During the event 157,000 visitors visit the Interschutz. We met a lot of interested firefighters, recruited 8 new MALs (1 mal from Brazil, new country!), did networking with Fire Authority's and Associations and started some partnerships between them and the Red Knights. To show that the Red Knights are a serious organizations and to follow Red Knights traditions we worked on a charity project (Paulinchen) during Interschutz. There is a very popular local foundation to support children with burn injuries and their families. This foundation was presented at the Interschutz too, but they did not have permission to collect donations at Interschutz. We had that permission, so we decided to collect donations for that foundation. At the last day on the Interschutz, we have been able to give them 1.424,31 Euro (1,617.00 USD). When we presented the donation to Paulinchen, we invited the Journalists in attendance. They where been very interested. Most of them reported or will report about the Red Knights.

This is my last report as your Region 7 Regional Director. After my time, as European Ambassador and 1st Region 7 Regional Director, it is time to give the office to the next Regional Director. Please welcome Pierre Halleux (Belgium 1) as your new Regional

Director. I am sure he will work very well in his new office. For me, this should not be the end of my engagement for the Red Knights.

I want to say "Thank you" to all of you. I will meet you in Texas, and in future Events.

Region 7 Director

Tom Delboi