

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY REPORT

It is time to travel to Texas for the Annual Convention and see old friends and make new ones. San Antonio is a beautiful city with a lot of history and I am sure that the Texas Association has a great convention planned for us. If you get the change to ride the Three Twisted Sisters, make sure you do.

Our name and logo are now trademarked in 33 countries. We now have 1836 approved or pending trademark license agreements with our chapters and outside vendors. 97% of our chapters now have an approved trademark license agreement for chapter business. All chapters are required to have a Chapter Business Trademark

We now can issue one trademark license agreement for chapter clothing. This will allow the use of the Red Knight's name and logo on the following chapter specially clothing line: shirts, (tee, sweat, hooded, polo, golf, work, dress, turtle neck), tank tops, sweat pants, sport shirts, hats (all styles), chapter pullovers, jackets, wind shirts. Use of our name and logo must stay within the Red Knights By-Laws and must not have any profanity and be in good taste. What is in good taste as decided by the Board of Directors whose decision will be final and binding? The register mark (R) must be used on after our name/logo on all items.

Each item that uses our name or logo must have a TMLA before it can be made or sold. The Trademark Application can be found on our web site (www.redknightsmc.com). The turn around time for approving new trademark applications to the chapters is 8 to 10 days, depending on the mail system. An e-mail is send when it is approved and the hard copy is mailed to the chapter.

In 2014, we insured 58 chapter events. For the first six months of 2015, we have had 34 chapters applied for insurance. We offer a one million dollar certificate of insurance for our chapter's event. The average cost to the chapters is \$148.50. There is no requirement from the International to have your events insured; however, it is a good idea to have.

For the first six months of 2015, we had 46 requests for information on starting new chapters. We have approved 11 of those requests (23.9 %).

We now are advertising in sixteen (17) states, one province and two Fire EXPOs. I am always looking for other states (firefighter magazines) place ads in. If you have one in your area, please advise me.

The SOG manual was revised is still a living document with updates as needed. I want to thank the Board members who have input on this. It is posted on our web site (www.redknightsmc.com), please take time to review it.

A Procedure Manual for Hosting of the International Convention is given to each hosting chapter/association by the Regional Director. This lists the requirements for hosting the convention, the needs of the International and the reporting forms need. It is a road map

for the chapters/associations to follow. As we find area that need improvement or added, they are. We learn something from every Convention to make the next one better. The manual is a big help to the Convention Committee when they use this guideline. The financial reports are a big help to the International Treasurer. The format in this procedure manual can also be used for multi chapter, Association or Regional event.

The Convention Handout Booklet containing all of the reports, by-law changes and other information given to each member in attendance when they registered. It is now in its ninth year. This has been accepted by the membership with good results. This allows the member time to review what will take place at the ABM.

Since August of 2014, I attended three International Board meetings, three RKR Board meetings, the Annual International Convention in PEI, the Knights Of The Round Table (KORT) tournament in Kerrville, Texas, the 343 Memorial Ride in North Carolina, hosted by NC 6, visited the NC Burn Unit, the planning meeting for the WV Association, the Dixie Rally in New Orleans, LA, hosted by LA 1, the 1st Yankee Rally in Clinton Park, NY, hosted by NY 12, the Region 3 meeting hosted by the Ohio Association, the 1st PA Association Annual Picnic hosted by PA 39, The Thunder in the Valley in Johnstown, PA with other RKMC members and escorted the remains of 10 veterans to the National Cemetery. Along with these I had the chance to visit with many chapters in North America.

I will be attending the 343 Ride in North Carolina, the Red Helmet Ride and the Knights of the Round Tournament in Texas in September and October.

As the International Chaplain, one of the biggest honors that I get is to attend the wake/funerals of Red Knight members as the representative of the Red Knights International Board. This is one of the most important things that the Red Knights offer. To our knowledge, we are the only National or International motorcycle clubs that do this for our members. Since we began as a chapter, we have lost 324 members. In March of 2008, the international started a program of sending a Red Knights flag to the family. In October of 2008, we started a program of sending an International Board Representative to the wake or funeral of our members who have passed away. Since that time we have had a representative at 176 out of 215 wakes and/or funerals for our members who have passed away. We are the only National motorcycle club who shows respect to our members in this way.

But the International Board stills needs your help. Anyone who knows of a Members passing, please contact the International Secretary immediately. We have a funeral protocol and without timely notification, we cannot convey our proper respects to the family or be able to send a representative of the International Board to the viewing or services. We will present a RKMC flag and an Angel coin to the family.

Please forward all information to the International Chaplain (chaplain@redknightsmc.com) and the International Secretary (secretary@redknightsmc.com) ASAP.

I also place an article titled “Chaplain’s Corner” in our newsletter. I am available to assist our members in their time of need. You can contact me at chaplain@redknightsmc.com.

This year your International Board purchase and send out Medical Data stickers to our members. The Board felt that the stickers would provide needed information on a timely basis should the need arise. We still have Medical Data form on our web site. I send out over 5900 stickers in the US. Scott handle Canada, Jack handled the overseas chapter and the MALs while Tom handled the European chapters.

I have been honored to be able to work on behalf of the membership in reaching our goals during the last eleven (11) years. I have accepted your support and will work as hard as I can to full fill the duties of this office.

I will not be seeking re-election to be your International Secretary in 2016. I have been honored to bring many new items and ideas to the club during my time as your Secretary. This is one of the most important offices in our club. In some way or the other, the Secretary has contact with every member, every chapter and every aspect of the club. It is important for members who are interested in stepping up to the challenge that it does mean a significant time commitment. Over the last three years, between the duties of the Secretary and the Chaplain on average, I average 119 hours a month working for the Red Knights, with some months taking quite more than that. When you elect your new Secretary, take time to know the people who will seek this position and vote for the best qualified person for the position and has the time to commit to the position.

Please remember that that this is your club and in order for it to keep growing and moving forward, it needs new ideas and new people. Think about this and step up and seek election to a State or International Board position in the coming years.

International Secretary
International Chaplain
Bill “Popeye” Snodgrass