

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Held in Sandusky, Ohio**

Saturday, August 23, 2008

President Downs called meeting to order at 8:27 am

Roll call of Officers:

Board members present were:

Jack Downs, President	Dave Emery, Vice President
Bill Snodgrass, Secretary	Leo Patry, Treasurer
John Rucinski, Eastern Director	Henry Heideman, Eastern Canada
Jeff Peters, Central Director	Bill Collins, Quartermaster
Graham Clark, Western Director	Jack Jarvis, Asst Southern Director

Bo Toepfer, Southern Director absent

**(WORDING FOR ALL MOTIONS IS FOUND IN THE MOTION LEDGER)
(ALL MOTIONS WERE VOICE VOTES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)**

1. President Downs welcome all members to the 2008 Convention and Annual Business Meeting. He gave his President's report to the membership.
2. The Secretary reported that we had 49 chapters in attendance.
3. President Downs ask for a motion (030-2008) to accept the 2007 Annual Business Meeting minutes as published. Motion was made by Jim Langan (OH 4) and seconded by Ron Mott (FL 1). Motion passed.
4. President Downs ask for motion to accept all officers' reports as published in the International Convention Handout. Motion (031-2008) was made by Reno Decker (NY 8) and seconded by Jack Jarvis (NC 6). Motion passed.
5. John Rucinski gave the AMA report. We only have two chapters who are AMA sanction chapters. He encouraged all chapters to support the AMA.
6. The International Treasurer presented the 2007 financial report and made a motion (032-2008) to accept the report. Steve Mickle (MA 13) seconded motion. Motion passed.
7. The International Treasurer presented the 2007 Audit report and made a motion (033-2008) to accept the report. Roy Hall (NC 9) seconded motion. Motion passed.

8. The International Treasurer made a motion (034-2008) to make a \$150.00 donation to the AMA Legislature fund. Steve Mickle (MA 13) seconded motion. Motion passed.
9. The International Treasurer made a motion (035-2008) to make a donation of \$150.00 to the host association's charity. Jack Jarvis (NC 6) seconded motion. Motion passed.
10. Ron Mott gave a report on the 2009 convention, which will be held in Fort Lauderdale at the Bahai Mar Beach Resorts. FL1 had a questionnaire in the hospitality room that they are asking the members to fill out on activities during the 2009 convention.

John Rucinski gave a report on the 2010 Convention. It will be in Alexandria Bay, New York. This is the thousand islands area of northern New York.

There was not a report on the 2011 Convention from Maryland 3.

Brian Sames gave a report on the 2012 Convention. It will be at the Eisenhower Hotel in Gettysburg, Pa.

11. Nominations Chairperson, Steve Mickle, opened the nominations for Officers.

Vice President	John Rucinski Dick Morse (nominated from the floor by R.Merkosky OH 1)
Secretary	Bill Snodgrass
Quartermaster	Bill Collins
Southern Director	Jack Jarvis
Western Director	Gil Rekken
Eastern Director (1-year term)	Matt Vitacco (NJ 4) Spike Ostiguy (nominated from he floor by T. Cassie (MA 4)

12. President Downs gave each person nominated for VP and Eastern Director 5 minutes to address the membership.

John Rucinski spoke on what he had done during his terms as Eastern Director and how he wanted to serve the membership in the future.

Dick Morse spoke on what he saw as problems with the Executive Board, where the International was head, problems with the MAL's and the length of the meetings. He stated that he would work to get things straight and have shorter meetings.

Matt Vitacco spoke on being the NJ State Representative and his work starting the NJ Association.

Spike Ostiguy thanked the membership for his nomination. He spoke of his history of serving on the Executive Board in the past and stated that he would work for the good of the membership.

13. Vice President Dave Emery addressed Dick Morse's comments and advised him that he was not only wrong but did not know how hard the Executive Board worked or the improvements for the membership that had been made.
14. Ed Brouillet gave a report on the 2008 Americada. It had one of the largest Red Knights member's attendances. NY 12 did a great job hosting the lunch.
15. Eastern Canada Director, Henry Heideman, presented the by-law proposals.

- Henry Heideman read the proposed by-law and called for Motion 036-2008 dealing with Section 1;04 (b):

"A top rocker showing membership status may be worn as listed in Section 2:01 of the By-Laws or another option available is a top rocker that reads "RED KNIGHTS" or "**FIREFIGHTER**".

This motion was seconded by Jim Langan (OH 4).

Discussion was held and an amendment (Motion 037-2008) was made by Tom Cassis (MA 4) and seconded by Scott Power (ON 13). The new wording will read:

"A top rocker showing membership status may be worn as listed in Section 2:01 of the By-Laws or another option available is a top rocker that reads "RED KNIGHTS" or "**FIREFIGHTER**". A "**FIREFIGHTER**" top rocker may be worn only by an active or retired firefighter".

Henry Heideman called for a vote on the amendment (Motion 037-2008), Motion passed.

Henry Heideman then called for a vote on amended Motion 036-2008, Motion passed.

- Henry Heideman read the proposed by-law and called for Motion 038-2008 dealing with Section 2:01 (6):

“An Active member can if they so wishes be a member of more than one chapter at a time. They must pay the same dues as other members of the chapter that they chooses to join and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of an Active member in that chapter”.

Motion was seconded by Roy Hall (NC9).

A discussion has held on this motion and an amendment (Motion -39-2008) was made by Tom Cassis (MA 4) and seconded by Dan Merlin. The amendment read:

“An Active member can if they so wishes be a member of more than one chapter at a time. They must pay the same dues as other members of the chapter that they chooses to join and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of an Active member in that chapter, ***expect that they may only hold office in one chapter at a time. The chapter in which they hold office will be considered the members home chapter***”.

Henry called for a hand vote on Motion 039-2008. Motion passed by a vote of 23 for and 21 against.

At 10:05, President Downs tabled Motion 038 to allow the members to caucuses.

At 10:12, President Downs reopened the meeting. At that time, Steve Mickle (MA 13) called for Motion 038-2008 to be tabled until the 2009 Annual Business meeting. Motion was seconded by Rich Merkosky (OH 1).

President Downs called for a vote, Motion 038A-2008 passed.

- Henry Heideman read the proposed by-law and called for Motion 040-2008 dealing with Section 5:06:

“Social members shall be a Spouse, Partner, Boyfriend, Girlfriend, Son, Daughter, Brother or Sister of an Active Member, Associate Member or a Member-at-Large. ***The minimum age for a social member shall be 16 years of age before joining.***”

Roy Hall (NC9) seconded motion

After discussion on this proposal, Henry called for a hand vote. Motion 29 for and 18 against.

- Henry Heideman read the proposed by-law and called for Motion 041-2008 dealing with Section 5:07:

“Each Chartered Chapter may grant Special Honorary Membership status to a member of a recognized religion for the position of Chapter Chaplain. Special Honorary Membership may also be granted to a civic or business leader who does volunteer work for the Chapter. (REMOVE THIS LINE) *Special Honorary Membership may also be granted to the widow or widower of an Active or Associate Member.*) (ADD THIS LINE) *The International dues for this membership classification is to be paid by the Chapter*”.

Motion was seconded by Jack Jarvis (NC 6)

Henry explained the reason for this proposal is because it also in Section 5:09 Compassionate Honorary Member.

Motion 041-2008 passed

- Henry Heideman read the proposed by-law and called for Motion 042-2008 dealing with Section 5:10.

“The Chapter mailing address and e-mail address of record will be that of the current Chapter President and Chapter Secretary. The Chapter Secretary shall maintain a current roster on file with the International. All communications from the International shall be forwarded to the proper Officer(s) or member. Communication to the International Executive Board shall be sent to the International Regional Director for distribution”.

Roy Hall (NC 9) seconded motion 042-2008

A discussion has held on this motion and an amendment (Motion 043-2008) was made by Tom Cassis (MA 4) and seconded by Paul Patry (ON 7).

The amendment read:

“The Chapter mailing address and e-mail address of record will be that of the current Chapter President and Chapter Secretary. The Chapter Secretary shall maintain a current roster on file with the International. All communications from the International will be forwarded to the proper Officer(s) or member.

Motion 043-2008 passed.

Rick Molta made an amendment (Motion 044-2008) to Motion 043-2008 (NY 14 and seconded by Ron Mott (FL 1) to read:

“The Chapter mailing address and e-mail address of record will be that of the current Chapter President and Chapter Secretary. The Chapter Secretary shall maintain a current roster on file with the International. All communications from the International will be forwarded to the proper Officer(s) or member. All communications with the chapter will be cc’ed to the Chapter Secretary”.

Motion 044-2008 passed.

Henry called for a vote on the amended Motion 042-2008.

Motion 042-2008 passed.

16. Secretary Snodgrass gave a report on the membership. For the first time in our history we are over 300 chapters with 305.
17. Don Parker gave a report on the Red Knight Memorial. The new pastal is in place and names have been placed on it. They are redoing some of the landscaping that did not make it thru the winter. A car ran off the road and did some damage which has been repaired.
18. Treasurer Patry gave a report on the need for the donations for the memorial and its upkeep.
19. Secretary Snodgrass gave a report on the insurace program. We were able to hold our rates the same for 2008-2009 as they were for 2007-2008. He reminded the memebtrs of the time needed to obtain the insurance for the chapters.
20. Treasurer Patry made a Motion (045-2008) to delete from the master roster the following chapters that are two years in arrears of their dues:

Alberta 2 Arizona 1 Georgia 3 Georgia 5 Maine 6
New York 20 New York 23 Ohio 7 Ontario 8
Pennsylvania 21

Motion was seconded by Dennis Gobel (ON 9)

Motion 045-2008 passed

21. The Election of Officers was held with Chairperson Mickle casting one vote for the following:

International Secretary, Bill Snodgrass
Quartermaster, Bill Collins
Southern Director, Jack Jarvis
Western Director, Gil Reken

A ballot vote for the Offices of Vice President and Eastern Director was held.

Those elected were:

Vice President, Dick Morse

Eastern Director, Spike Ostiguy

22. Under Good for the Order, Secretary Snodgrass highlighted the following:

- Life Membership, explaining that if a chapter decides to make a member a life member under the guidelines spelled out in the International By-Laws to notify the International so that a Life Membership certificate could be sent to the member and their status could be updated.
- When a member passes away, the chapters to notify the International Secretary ASAP so that a flag may be sent and to make arrangements for a member of the International Board to attend the funeral. The member's name will be added to the Heaven One roster so that their name will be read at the next convention and their name placed on the Red Knight's Memorial.
- The Secretary will have membership cards available after the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM

Submitted by:

Bill Snodgrass
International Secretary