



**Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club® Inc.**  
**Office of the International Vice President**  
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## 2017 Convention Report

Fraternal greetings everyone,

Welcome and enjoy the 2017 R.K.I.F.M.C. Annual Convention Syracuse, NY.

Wow, already a year has passed since the awesome convention & experience in Wisconsin Dells.

Again, I thank everyone for your support with entrusting me as Your International Vice President.

Most may remember I also served as (the 4<sup>th</sup>) V.P. = 1994-1995, and Eastern Director (Now Region 1),

2008-2009. As most of you may also know your Executive Board meets two other times a year,

...fall and spring in Baltimore, MD. At the close of these meetings President Chris Gadway some years back initiated a "round robin" so to speak. This is where all the executive board members voice untethered closing comments. Last fall (2016) when these closing comments got around to yours truly, all I could say was; "This isn't your mothers Red Knight's anymore."

O' how this family organization has grown, nurtured and prospered from what I remember of the mid '90's. From double digit M.A.L.'s of the mid to late '90's to over 400 today.

We have reached 24 countries... and with that a multitude of time zones across the world.

So, needless to say for all intents and purposes the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club is active 24/7 around the clock... around the world.

As one of my job duties I oversee the Member At Large Membership / program.

Since last August congratulate with me as we welcome three new chapters that have spawned from the M.A.L. program,

Australia Chapter 18, Newfoundland Chapter 2 and Tennessee Chapter 3.

At the time of this report we are working on one promising Ohio chapter that is in pipeline and should be cleared and chartered by convention.

These chapters are models and examples of the actual and original intent of the M.A.L. program.

### **A message to the membership.**

#### ***Please remember***

This (M.A.L.) is an extremely fluid program, ever growing... actually exploding over the last 6+ years.

The original intent of this program as defined by our Founding Father's was for individuals wanting to join the Red Knights but lived or were too far away from an already formed chapter.

These individuals would become MAL's in the hope of promoting the Red Knights & our "Mission Statement," finding six (6) other local firefighters and family members to form a chapter of their own.

In recent years, we as a board have witnessed an increased influx of chapter members transferring membership to M.A.L. for a multitude of different reasons, and most are not because a member moves.

In keeping with the spirit in which the M.A.L. program was conceived the membership brought forward a By-Law proposal, which was passed at the San Antonio convention a few years back.

That By-Law; **Article 2 Section 2:01 II. b.** Members wishing to transfer from chapter to MAL, please refer to this By-Law.

In a nutshell and until convention this report is submitted with a comma and not a period.  
Remember, it is YOU that steer this incredible family organization.  
My door/phone is always open. By all means please feel free to reach out to me  
or any Board Member for that matter with any questions, comments, and or concerns that you may have.

Again, I look forward to seeing all my Brothers & Sisters in Syracuse... Enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

*Spike Ostiguy*

*R.K.I.F.M.C.*

*International Vice President*

Life Member

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