

## INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

I have seen and heard chapters and associations deal with convention planning and the little I know about it is, it's a LOT of work by a lot of people. We all owe a huge thank you to the Texas State Association for being such great host for Red Knights from around the world showcasing your beautiful city of San Antonio. We are all looking forward to a great weekend of camaraderie, riding, fellowship, and fun. Of course we will have to get a couple hours of business in while we're here. Thank you to all that came down this far south to deal with the heat at the "hotter than something" convention. I heard somebody say that down here the best parking space has nothing to do with how close it is to the door, it is which one offers the best shade. How true it is!

Your International Board has been hard at work over the last year as usual handling everyday business and new projects alike. To highlight a few projects; there will be a new historical/membership book coming soon, the developing of a new website and a fully verified/updated Help-A-Knight roster.

We have entered into a contract with Harris Connect, a publishing company to write a book on the history and members of our organization. This will be a year plus long project where they will send out postcards to all members requesting you to call a toll free number for use in North America. Sorry overseas, there will be a toll number provided, or you can work with them via email. They will then collect some simple information from you (example, verify address and number) and if you want to they will take a short story from you and a picture if you send them one. We are excited about this project for so many reasons, one of which, we really want to get the original history from our founders in writing.

A new web hosting service is now under contract as well. About a month ago, the website transition was completed. We did NOT change anything related to the chapter email accounts until after the election process was completed. This month, the Email accounts will be moved to the new Server, during that process, ANY EMAILS ON THE OLD SERVER WILL BE LOST! During all of these changes, our current webmaster, Tommy has been keeping the website rolling along. We all owe a huge thanks to Tommy 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 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. Smooches still handles the program in its entirety, so if you want to sign up or you want more information about the HAK program, please reach out to her so she can get you in on the next quarterly update. Thank Amanda for all you do for all of us!

I would like to specifically thank each of the officers of the International Board and especially those who are leaving the board this year. I can honestly say I have NEVER worked with a finer group of men, than over the past years on this board. Congratulations to the new officers coming on board, 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 another two years in this office.

Again, I want to reiterate the entire Boards appreciation for not only the convention planners and staff, but also to each and every member that has traveled here to be part of the 2015 RKIFMC International Convention. Without you, we would just be sitting here in south central Texas waiting for the sun to go down. Oh, sorry, that is exactly what we are doing, but because you're here, we are having a blast doing it!

Chris Gadway  
International President