

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND  
RULES AND REGULATIONS OF  
THE RED KNIGHTS FIREFIGHTERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB  
CHAPTER 29 OF NEW YORK



CHAPTER FOUNDED 8/9/2006  
BY-LAWS CREATED 11/12/2006  
BY-LAWS REVISED 7/8/2007  
APPROVED BY INTERNATIONAL

**RED KNIGHTS MOTORCYCLE CLUB  
NEW YORK 29  
CHATHAM, NY 12037  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

**Article 1: Name, Purpose and Seal.**

**Section 1:** The name of this Chapter shall be known as **Red Knights Motorcycle Club, NY 29.**

**Section 2:** The purpose of this Chapter is to provide a fraternal and social motorcycle club for active and former members of the fire service, and to promote safe and proper methods of motorcycle operation.

**Section 3:** In the event of dissolution of the **Red Knights Motorcycle Club, NY 29**, any remaining funds the club may have, shall be turned over to any non-profit charitable organization that can utilize the funds. Such charitable organization shall be voted on by the membership.

**Section 4:** The Chapter Seal shall be the shape of the standard corporate seal, with the words, **The Red Knights Motorcycle Club, NY 29**, and the year "2006" shall be included.

**Article 2: Organization Identities as Depicted by International By-Laws**

**Section 1:** The chapter **EMBLEM** shall be the standard **Red Knight Patch.**

**Section 2:** The vest / jacket color of this chapter will be **Black**, with Red as the dress uniform for parades and formal functions.

**Section 3:** The chapter shall use the **STAR SPANGLED BANNER** as its **ANTHEM.**

**Section 4:** The **MOTTO** of the chapter shall be "**LOYAL TO OUR DUTY**".

**Article 3: Membership and Dues.**

**Section 1:** All members shall conduct themselves in a prescribed manner of our proud history of Firefighting and public servants. All members shall be accountable to the International and Chapter Constitution, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations. All members shall ride in a safe and lawful manner when moving in public and assist the public if possible without harm to yourself, your passenger and the Chapter. No one shall be denied membership because of race, sex, religion, nationality, political affiliation or disability. Membership shall not be restricted to a class or manufacture of motorcycle as long as they are licensed, insured, in safe and working condition and street legal.

**Section 2:** There shall be six (6) classifications of membership:  
Active, Associate, Social, Honorary, Life, and Charter.

**Section 3:** Any member under the age of eighteen (18) must have a release form signed by a parent or guardian before being allowed to join the chapter.

**\*\*Section 3:** No person under the age of eighteen (18) may be granted membership of any class.

**Section 4: Active Membership** shall be available to active or former fire fighting personnel presently owning or having access to a registered motorcycle with proof of valid insurance, and holding a valid motorcycle license. Prospective member must fill out application and supply letter of recommendation from your company chief.

- Section 5: Associate Membership** shall be offered to a person who has been proposed in writing for such membership and contributed to the promotion of the Chapter and wishes to participate in chapter activities. Final approval shall be a unanimous vote of the chapter at a regular meeting. Associate membership shall not exceed (10) percent of the existing Active Members. Associate Members will have one vote on Chapter matters but may not hold an office on the Chapter Executive Board. Exception being Chapter Secretary or Treasurer then is required to pay annual dues to be listed on the International roster.
- Section 6: Social Membership** shall be the spouses, partners, boyfriends, girlfriends, Sons and Daughters of Active members. Active members who sponsor Social Members shall be responsible for their actions. Social Members will have one vote on Chapter matters but may not hold an office on the Chapter Executive Board. Exception being Chapter Secretary or Treasurer then is required to pay annual dues to be listed on the International roster.
- Section 7: Life Membership** is a Charter Active Member who has been a concurrent member for twenty five (25) years or to an Active Member that due to health or age, no longer has the ability to ride a motorcycle. The International Corporation will honor the Life Member by paying his/her Annual International dues. Life Members will have one vote on Chapter matters and can hold an office on the Chapter Executive Board.
- Section 8: Charter Membership** will be for founding Members or members who have joined within one year from the date that the International Corporation accepted the Chapter as a Chartered Chapter.
- Section 9:** The Chapter may grant **Honorary Membership** status to a member of a recognized religion for the position of Chapter Chaplain. Honorary Membership may also be granted to a civic or business leader who does volunteer work for the Chapter. Honorary Membership may also be granted to the widow or widowers of an Active or Associate member. An honorary member shall not hold office or vote in the affairs of the Chapter.
- Section 10:** Active, Associate, Social and Charter members in good standing shall have the right to vote at any club function at the NY 29 level.
- Section 11:** Only Active members may hold the Office of President or Vice-President. Adult Social or Associate members may hold the Offices' of Secretary, Treasurer, Quartermaster and Road Captain, if no Active members accept nominations for those positions.
- Section 12:** The tenure for membership shall be from the day after the annual meeting until the end and close of business on the day of the next annual meeting of the Chapter.
- Section 13:** Each new member shall pay dues in the amount set by the Chapter membership and shall be payable to the Chapter Treasurer prior to the close of the next regular meeting of the chapter.
- Section 14:** No one shall be denied membership because of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, political affiliation or disability.
- Section 15:** The Executive Board, after their investigation of any alleged charges, shall recommend to the membership for their approval the expulsion or suspension of any member of the Chapter.
- Section 16:** Any member who terminates his/her membership in the Red Knights Motorcycle Club, NY 29, for any reason shall return his/her membership card to the Executive Board.

**Section 17:** All Chapter and International dues shall be paid by the end of the fiscal year which shall span from November 1 to October 31. This will allow the Executive board adequate time to process the rooster for the following year and forward it to International prior to the December 31 deadline.

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#### **Article 4: Executive Board**

**Section 1:** The administration of the chapter shall be vested in the Board of Directors. Composed of the Executive Board which shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Road Captain and Quartermaster, These officers are voted on by the body at the annual Chapter meeting and shall be reelected BI-Annually.

**Section 2:** Any vacancy on the Board that may occur during an elected term of office may be filled by any Active member receiving the majority vote of the members present at any meeting.

**Section 3:** The Executive Board shall have supervision of and be responsible for all affairs and property of the Chapter, and shall inspect annually all records, books and accounts of the Chapter.

**Section 4:** The Executive Board shall have the right to accept for and on behalf of the Chapter any contributions, appropriations or grants in aid from whatever source that may be tendered in moneys, goods, real or personnel property or services for the good of the Chapter. The Executive Board may pledge the faith of the Chapter with or without security if the occasion would arise in the pursuance of its work

#### **Article 5: Officers**

**Section 1:** The officers of the Chapter shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Road Captain, Quartermaster and any other Officer that may be elected for the good of the Chapter. They shall be elected BI-Annually by the membership present at the annual meeting of the Chapter. They shall serve in office until the close of the next annual meeting that their respective office comes up for reelection. At which time their successors will assume the duties of the office.

**Section 2:** The **President** shall be the executive officer of the chapter. He/She shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter and the Executive Board except the nominating committee. He/She shall serve as an ex-officio on all other committees. He/She shall be a co-signer along with the Treasurer on all notes, mortgages, and other legal instrumentality's with the exception of checks, given on behalf of the chapter and shall if required by the board give such surety bond as may be required at the expense of the chapter. He/She shall have the power to call meetings of the Executive Board and shall make full and complete reports of the chapter and the actions of the Executive Board at each meeting of the chapter. The President shall be one (1) of three (3) Executive Officers authorized to sign checks for the Chapter.

**Section 3:** The **Vice-President** in the absence of the President shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the President. He/She shall be one (1) of three (3) Executive Officers authorized to sign checks for the Chapter. He/She shall be the Chairperson of the Membership Committee.

**Section 4:** The **Secretary** shall attend all meetings of the Chapter and the Executive Board and shall, keep accurate records of all business and membership at such meetings. He/She shall give "adequate notice" to all members of the Chapter in advance of annual or any special meetings of the Chapter. He/She shall make a full report of the membership status of the Chapter at each annual meeting. At the request of the President or as otherwise provided herein, He/She shall give "adequate notice" of all meetings of the Executive Board, for the purpose herein set forth. "Adequate notice" shall mean that all members are notified seven (7) days prior to the meeting. The Secretary shall also file all legal documents. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping in file the Chapter's By-Laws. He/She shall have the authority to make necessary changes in spelling and or punctuation that will not alter or change the intent of the By-Laws without voting approval of the Chapter members.

**Newsletter Editor:**

1. He/She shall report to the President and carry out any duties as required by the Constitution and By-laws, and fulfill any request the president or Executive Board requires of a Newsletter editor.
2. Monthly He/She shall produce a newsletter. (this may be done with the assistance of members of the Executive Board.)
3. He/She shall promote and ensure that the information on the RKMC NY 29 is accurately recorded and reported.
4. Any expenses He/She may acquire shall be authorized by the Executive Board prior to the action requiring the expense, except the cost of reports, mailing and phone costs relating to Red Knights business. Such expenses shall have receipts sent to the chapter Treasurer prior to being paid.

**Section 5:** The **Treasurer** shall be responsible for all Chapter funds. He/She shall collect annual dues. He/She shall receive all Chapter funds, depositing the same in the name of the Chapter in such bank or trust company as designated by the Executive Board. He/She shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements. He/She shall make a full and accurate report of the financial situation of the Chapter at each meeting and upon request of the Executive Board. He/She shall be one (1) of three (3) Executive Officers authorized to sign checks for the Chapter.

**Section 6:** The **Road Captain** shall have the responsibility of approving routes for all poker runs and all sanctioned Chapter rides. He/She shall hold responsibility for safe riding as the Safety Officer of the Chapter. If the Road Captain is not on a ride, one shall be appointed for that ride. In the event that He/She is not familiar with the route, the Road Captain may ride in the #2 position with an Assistant Road Captain in the lead. The Road Captain may also take over the Assistant Road Captain's position at the rear of the group. An Assistant Road Captain is also appointed by the Road Captain to ride at the end of the group. his/her duties are to report safety problems to the Road Captain, and to assist any bikes leaving the group. The Road Captain shall collect \$1.00 per person on all scheduled trips, rides, and meetings for the purpose of building up the Charity Fund.

**Section 7:** The **Quartermaster** shall be responsible for the records of all club properties and shall be responsible for the purchasing and sale of any Red Knight items for the good of the chapter.

**Section 8:** In the absence of any officer from a meeting or function at which his/her presence is necessary, the presiding officer may appoint a temporary substitute therefore.

**Section 9: Web Page Editor shall be appointed by the President:**

1. He/She shall report to the President and carry out any duties as required by the Constitution and By-laws, and fulfill any request the president or Executive Board requires of a Web Page editor.
2. He/She shall produce and update a chapter web page. ( this may be done with the assistance of members of the Executive Board.)
3. He/She shall promote and ensure that the information on the RKMC NY 29 is accurately recorded and reported.
4. Any expenses He/She may acquire shall be authorized by the Executive Board prior to the action requiring the expense, except the cost of reports, mailing and phone costs relating to Red Knights business. Such expenses shall have receipts sent to the chapter treasurer prior to being paid.

**Article 6: Committees**

**COMMITTEES.**

**Section 1:** Standing and other Committees. The following Committees may be appointed by the President at the Annual Meeting. (\*\* Are required.)

1. By-Laws Committee. \*\*
2. Audit and Finance Committee. \*\*
3. Nomination Committee. \*\*
4. Safety Committee. \*\*
5. Grievance Committee. \*\*
6. Entertainment Committee.
7. Clothing Committee.
8. Membership Committee.

All Committees may setup their own rules with the approval of the Chapter Executive Board. ( The Chapter should workout your own Committee duties.) Contact the International By-Laws Committee for suggested guidelines.

**Section 2:** The Executive Board may from time to time, appoint committees as it may deem necessary or advisable, for carrying out the proposed work of the Chapter and delegate to such committees such authority and power as it may see fit to grant within the limits of its own authority. The membership of such committees may consist of Active, Associate and Social members, with the chairperson of the committee being an Active member. The tenure of each committee shall be fixed by the Executive Board.

**Section 3:** At least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual meeting of the Chapter the Executive Board shall appoint a nominating committee composed of at least one (1) Active member of the Chapter who shall prepare a list of nominations to the Board to fill whatever vacancies may occur at the annual meeting for that fiscal year. The committee will report its findings to the Chapter members present at the meeting, but such report shall not preclude the nomination of other Active members from the floor of the meeting, for vacancies on the Executive Board. A notice of the place and time shall be mailed in advance thereof to every member of the Chapter, by the Secretary and the Secretary's statement that such notice was mailed shall be deemed to be due notice thereof.

## **Article 7: Meetings**

### **Section 1**

The order of business at all meetings shall be as follows;

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll call.
3. Introduction of Members and Guests.
4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. (If available.)
5. Moment of Silence for departed Brother Firefighters.
6. Reading and approval of minutes from the previous meeting.
7. Reading of correspondence and action taken.
8. Treasurers report. Presentation of bills and payment.
9. Report of other Officers.
10. Committee reports.
11. Reading of applications for Membership.
12. Unfinished Business.
13. New Business. (Election and Installation of Officers.)
14. Good of the Chapter. Open discussion.
15. Announcements
16. Adjournment.

**Section 2:** Seven (7) Active, Associate, Social, Life and Charter members shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn the meeting to another date.

**Section 3:** The Annual Chapter meeting shall be held during the month of December. All reports of the officers and other transactions of committees may be brought forth at that meeting.

**Section 4:** By vote of the Executive Board or upon the written petition of at least seven (7) Active, Associate, or Social members of the Chapter, it shall be the duty of the President or his/her representative to call a special meeting of the Chapter, at such time and place as may be designated by the Executive Board or the petitioners as the case may be. The Secretary shall give adequate notice thereof to all voting members of the Chapter. Only such business that has been set forth in the notice therefore shall be transacted at a special meeting of the Chapter.

**Section 5:** There shall be no voting by proxy at any meeting of the Chapter and only Active, Associate and Social members in good standing, as verified by the Secretary shall be allowed to vote. Invited guests may be allowed to take part in the discussion on matters during the meeting so long as the decorum thereof is not unduly disturbed.

**Section 6:** The Executive Board shall meet, subject to the call of the President or upon the written petition of at least three (3) of its members as often as may be deemed necessary by the President or the members of the Board. A majority of the Executive Board members shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business at a meeting of the board, but a lesser number may adjourn the meeting to a later date.

**Section 7:** At all meetings of the Executive Board and at all meetings of the Chapter, after being established that a quorum is present, a majority of the votes cast on matters before the meeting shall rule.

**Section 8:** Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of any meeting unless inconsistent with the Chapter By-Laws.

## **Article 8: Alcohol, Drug Use and Safety Standards**

**Section 1:** The consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs will not be permitted during business portions of Chapter meetings.

## **Article 9: Rules Governing the Chapter**

**Section 1:** All Chapters shall abide by a minimum standard of the Rule and Regulations set forth by the International Board of Directors. The International Board of Directors or its commissioned representative shall review and accept or reject all applying Chapter Rules and Regulations

## **Article 10: Business Office**

**Section 1:** Unless otherwise specified by the Executive Board, the office of the President shall be deemed the Business Office of the Chapter.

**Section 2:** Until otherwise established the business address of the Chapter shall be:

Red Knights NY 29  
PO Box 206  
Chatham, NY 12037

## **Article 11: Use of Club Identities**

**Section 1:** The use of club identities which include patches, membership cards, vests and jackets is limited to members only.

**Section 2:** The top rocker identified as "Charter Member" shall be worn only by an Active member who has joined this chapter during the Charter period of August 2006 to August 2007. A Charter Member that transfers his membership from another Red Knights chapter may retain his Charter Member rocker

**Section 3:** Any violation of these articles shall be considered cause for termination or suspension of membership per the decision of the Executive Board.

## **Article 12: Amendments**

**Section 1:** These By-Laws may be proposed for repeal or amendment at any regular meeting and voted on at the next scheduled regular meeting by the members of the Chapter present. A two thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present and eligible to vote shall be required for approval.

On a motion made and seconded. It was voted to accept these By-Laws as the general rules of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club, NY 29. This date being November 12, 2006.

Revision 1 Voted and Approved July 8, 2007

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**PRESIDENT**

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**VICE-PRESIDENT**

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**SECRETARY**

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**TREASURER**

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**ROAD CAPTAIN**