

Richard Oliver
Red Knights Mass Chapter 2
rickoliver-for-region1@rk-mass2.org

Good day brother and sister Red Knights of Region-1,

I was honored when I was approached by several different members of our great club and asked to run for the position of Region 1 Director.

I understand that this is a short-term position, to fill the post that was held by Eric Jock, until recently. I am in this campaign, and look forward to serving the membership of Region-1 long-term – to listen and learn from you the members.

I live in New Salem, Massachusetts, which is centrally located in our Region. I know it is physically impossible to meet with every single chapter, but my goal is to attend state meetings of our chapters in each state of the region each year.

I also promise you that I will listen to each chapter and each member that reaches out to me. It is our members' ideas, concerns and vision for this great organization that has made it what it is. And it is that vision and love for our organization by the members that will continue to help our club flourish.

I urge each of you, and your chapters, to review the nomination information and bios of the candidates who are running for the vacant Region-1 Director position. Your chapter's vote – for either candidate – is very important for the Red Knights of Region-1 as well as our larger worldwide organization.

As Regional Director, I will always support the members and the chapters of our region. I feel that I am the best candidate to fill this role, and I am asking for your support and your vote for my candidacy.

Voting will be open for chapters to cast your ballots between January 11 and January 26, 2023. I urge you to exercise your right to vote!

Thank you for your time.

Fraternally,

Richard "Rick" Oliver
Vice-President
Red Knights Massachusetts Chapter 2
rickoliver-for-region1@rk-mass2.org
978-413-5544

Bio of Richard Oliver

I have always had a personal mantra of Service to Others.
Service to family, service to friends, service to community.

My wife Lori and I have been married for 34 years. We adopted three sisters in 1992 and now have five grandchildren ranging from three to fifteen years old. Our oldest granddaughter, Aalyiah, is a Junior Member of Massachusetts Chapter 2, and our dog Neva is our pseudo chapter mascot!



After an injury cut my career ambitions as a firefighter short in the early 1980's, I started that journey of what will come of my career? After several years trying different work, Lori and I bought a run-down convenience/liquor store and opened the New Salem General Store. That leap of faith solidified how I could serve my community. In over 25 years running the store, it grew to be a destination spot for tourists (and riders) and a treasure to the town. I retired from the business in 2020, handing over the reins to another local couple with similar service ambitions.



Becoming a storekeeper and the town's postmaster for a small New England town allowed me the opportunity to get to know my neighbors and be able to support the community, the townspeople, the school, and the police and fire departments over the years. In that time, they all had become like family.

From 2007-2017 townspeople came together with me and the store sponsored the "Hilltown Brewfest." Over the course of the ten years that this ran, the volunteers were able to raise over \$70,000 that was given to the local fire departments.

The best thing Lori and I ever did as a couple was join the Red Knights. We have been members of Massachusetts Chapter 2 since 2007 (15 years). When we first joined, we thought it would be a good way to get out and ride with others, but it quickly became much more than that – it became family.

The fundraising efforts of the store have continued into the riding corner of our lives, as well. Working with MA-2 we were able to raise funds through a "Barrel Raffle" (finished Jack Daniels barrel) and give donations to the Ride for Kids, for several years. I also had the opportunity to support RKMFC Founding Father Norm Beausoleil in garnering two barrels of Jack Daniels to sell

etched bottles with the proceeds going to the Red Knights' Memorial Fund. Over \$12,000 was raised through these projects.

In 2011 Lori and I had the opportunity to visit Red Knights in Europe and visited France-1 and Switzerland-1 and became instant friends.

When Vermont hosted the 2013 International Convention, Lori and I were able to repay the European hospitality and host members from Europe at our house prior to the convention. Members of MA-2 helped us plan and lead some rides for our visiting family and tour parts of New England, during their stay. Since then, we have had the good fortune to host many Red Knight friends in our home, which is always a joy!

Page 8 ATHOL DAILY NEWS Weekend, August 17-18, 2013



RED KNIGHTS VISIT — Members of the Red Knights (Firefighters) Motorcycle Club from across Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut were hosts to fellow members from Europe as they passed through on their way to the Red Knights Convention in Rutland, Vt., recently. A day-long celebration with the visitors began at the Red Knights Memorial in Boylston followed by a motorcycle ride with nearly 40 bikes making their way through parts of central Massachusetts that included a stop at the Quabbin Park. The ride concluded in New Salem where members of the New Salem Fire Department provided all in attendance with a barbeque dinner. Massachusetts Assistant State Representative for the Red Knights and local chapter president Bob LaFord said that, with more than 600 Red Knights gathering in Vermont for the convention, it was an opportunity to meet fellow firefighters from around the globe and "share some of our favorite motorcycle roads with them." The visitors included firefighters from Switzerland, Holland, and Luxemburg. All of them remarked about the natural beauty of the Quabbin region and how much they enjoyed touring the area. Submitted photo

Our home has been the location for a Massachusetts State Meeting as well as a number of Chapter and Multi-chapter events. Our home is always open to our traveling Red Knights family.

In 2015 I had the opportunity to attend the EuCon Rally in Bern, Switzerland, where Lori and I became members of Swiss-1. In 2022, five additional members of MA-2 joined Lori and I in a trip-of-lifetime for two weeks in Switzerland. We stayed with members of Swiss-1 and followed them around the Alps for an unforgettable motorcycle trip (15 mountain passes including the famous "Stelvois Pass.") But as with any time Red Knights get together, the camaraderie is as equally fulfilling as the riding!



**At the 2015 Eu Con Rally in Bern, Switzerland
with U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland, Suzan LeVine**

Relationships, like these, give us better understanding of each other and helps us grow together more as friends in this great organization. For many of the last fifteen years, I and one or two of my chapter riding buddies have made it a point to head out for a motorcycle vacation during the riding season. Sometimes with our spouses along and sometimes a guy's ride. One point we always make once our trip planning begins to take form on paper is, "what Red Knights will we be near?" Those brief encounters, whether for a coffee, a meal, or a few miles riding together is always a great opportunity to expand our friend list.



**With members of Washington-2
while traveling on the west coast**

I have been attending International Conventions since 2013, and have attended four Yankee Rallies, two EuCon Rallies, and the 2022 Atlantic Rally, and we are looking forward to attending the convention in Austria in 2023. As I see all the good that the Red Knights do, I know that I need to do more for our club. Several years ago, I was asked to serve as chapter secretary. I am now serving as chapter vice-president and have been in that position since 2020.

I was honored in 2021 as the recipient of the Perry Carter award, and was humbled that my name was submitted for this award.

I am located in central Massachusetts, in the heart of Region-1. I can travel to all states in our region, easily from my home.

I know that many of you are aware of the dual rocker controversy and bylaw proposals that are currently an ongoing issue for our club. I have been asked if my candidacy for this position is because I have an axe to grind over this topic. I can assure you; IT IS NOT. This election is not about me, but it is all about you – the members. I truly feel that I have more to give to this club and I am looking forward to serving. Serving the members, serving the chapters, and serving the region.

This organization of ours, the Red Knights Motorcycle Club, relies on the members for survival and growth. We each have a responsibility to step up and say, “how can I help?” I know that my skills and abilities, and my love for the Red Knights and its members will help me be a strong leader, committed to helping our region.

I ask for your support during this campaign.

Richard Oliver

Vice-president, Massachusetts Chapter 2

rickoliver3@yahoo.com

978-413-5544



With members from Germany
during their visit to the RKMCM Memorial



Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club®
International Board of Directors
Nominee Profile

- 1) Personal Profile
 - a) Name: **Richard Oliver**
 - b) A.K.A. / Nick Name: **Rick**
 - c) City, State / Province, Country: **New Salem, MA, USA**
 - d) Other (optional):
- 2) Red Knights Information
 - a) Current Home Chapter: **Massachusetts Chapter 2**
 - b) Positions Held at Chapter, State/ Provincial, International Level: **(Currently) Chapter Vice-president, have held Chapter Secretary**
 - c) Years (total) In RKIFMC: **15 years**
 - d) Other (optional):
 - (1) **2021 Perry Carter award recipient,**
 - (2) **Member of Switzerland 1 since 2015**
- 3) Fire Service Affiliation
 - a) Name of Department(s): **Easthampton, MA**
 - b) Number of Years in Department(s): **3**
 - c) Positions Held: **Call Firefighter/EMT**
 - d) Other (optional): **While a call firefighter, I was on the state civil service list, to be the next career firefighter, upon a vacancy, when I suffered a back injury that cut my career short and ended my ability to continue as a firefighter. As proprietor of the New Salem General store for 25 years, the New Salem Fire Department was always one of the town organizations that received our strongest support. Even though I could not serve as a firefighter, I continued my commitment to public safety as an ancillary member, supporting them and their dedication to our community as best I could.**
- 4) Platform For Election
 - a) Primary reason(s) for running: **I have always believed that the strength and the core of Red Knights are its chapters and its individual members. In the International Board's Fall Meeting notes, President Joey Powell said, that he "reconfirmed the need for bringing our club back together and working as a family." From wherever we are in the world, and whatever our differences and opinions may be, we have joined this great club because of our similarities and we need to reach a hand across the table to support each other.**
 - b) Vision for future of RKIMC: **I believe that there needs to be a balance between the Red Knights as a business and the Red Knights that are the camaraderie and social aspect of our club. That balance includes working to pay off the mortgage on our memorial property, and allowing the property to be registered as non-profit. The second part of the balance is social – that the memorial property is better utilized for members and that members come to understand and appreciate where the Red Knights have been and where we are going. Working together we can support that each member can build that international friendship base that Lori and I have grown to appreciate.**
- 5) Other

When my wife Lori and I first joined the Red Knights, we thought it be a good way to do some riding with others. We quickly learned that this group of people were a family, and now 15 years later, many of our closest friends are Red Knights. The people we have met and the places we have traveled in that timeframe would never have been possible without us being Red Knights.


We have attended Regional Rallies and International Conventions, and through our friends in Europe and our membership in Switzerland-1 we have toured parts of Europe, attended European Regional Rallies, and enjoyed the growing friendships of our overseas brothers and sisters.

The 25th anniversary convention in 2007, Lori and my first year with the club, saw the dedication of the Red Knights Memorial in Boylston. I have come to believe that piece of ground is a very special place that deserves our care and dedication. I was honored to work with Founder Norm Beausoleil through my contacts in my business to help procure 2 barrels of Jack Daniels used as a fundraiser for our memorial property.

In 2021 I undertook completing the Grand Tour Master in one riding season. Visiting fire stations, fire fighters and Red Knights throughout the eastern seaboard. This quest was a true joy! My home chapter keeps a tally of rider mileage in the club, and looking at the figure of 150,000 miles I have racked up in that timeframe, and I realize how many Red Knight memories and friends are part of each of those miles.

I look forward to continuing to add up those Red Knight miles in the years to come, and if elected as your Region-1 Representative, I will work to support each chapter and each Red Knight in the Region to the best of my abilities.

Nominee confirms information to be correct and approve for publishing: Yes ☒ No ☐

Signature: 
Date: 11-25-22

Please complete this form online and email this form and a recent digital picture (to be published on RKIFMC website) to nominations@redknightsmc.com. Information marked in Red is required for the Nominating Committee to place the nominee on the ballot. Other field, except "Other" will appear blank in published profile unless information is provided. The above information and picture will be posted on the RKIFMC webpage.

To Be Completed By Nominating Committee		
Date Received _____		
Nomination requirements complete: Yes No		
Signature Chairperson: _____		
Date: _____		
Nominated by: _____	Office: _____	Home Chapter: _____
Nominated by: _____	Office: _____	Home Chapter: _____