

To fellow King of the road owners and members of the Kings on the Road Organization:

An issue that I thought had been put to rest for a few years was raised again at the Annual business meeting at Vidalia, LA. The issue concerns the membership qualifications for becoming a full voting member of the Organization.

At this time, the Organization is basically divided into two distinct groups. One group wants to change the membership qualifications and allow membership to any qualified RV owner regardless of the brand of RV they own. The other group wants to maintain the status quo and keep the Organization intact with only King owners as members and owners of other rigs as guests.

As you recall, in October, 2008, at the rally in South Dakota, a compromise was reached and the By-laws were amended to allow chapters to have Associate Members and allow the Associate Members to attend the National Rally as guests of the Chapter member. This year we had seven (7) guest rigs attending the rally and participating in all activities except for the business meeting.

As your President, it is my duty to remain neutral in matters brought before the Organization and I will make every effort to do so in this matter. However, as this is an issue in which emotions are running high, I feel I have a responsibility to ensure that all our members have as much information as possible in order to make an informed decision.

Both groups have made very compelling arguments and believe strongly in their positions. In my opinion, neither group is entirely right nor entirely wrong.

At this point, I would like to present a few facts for your information:

1. Financially – Administratively, the Organization is very sound and for the foreseeable future there is no need to increase dues regardless of membership size.
2. Membership decline – in the year of 2000, we had a membership list of 630 rigs. From year 2000 until 2006, membership declined from 630 to 228. This appears to be a huge drop, but these earlier years were when the factory was in production and was paying for the first year's membership. Many of these new members never came to our rallies and never showed interest in continuing membership in this Organization. Since 2006 we have dropped to the most recent count of 124 rigs. This loss is more reflective of those that have quit traveling in RVs for health, age or financial reasons. Also included are former members who have switched to another brand of RV since they were unable, or preferred not to, purchase Kings.
3. Rig Replacement – Many of our current membership have rigs that are reaching the age of replacement. For the past three years there has been no new King of the Road RVs manufactured. However, there are one, and possibly two, investment groups that have shown interest in purchasing Kings on the Road from Chief Industries. This is only a possibility, and may or may not ever occur.
4. Rally Attendance - The concern has been expressed that fewer members are attending the rallies due to the decline of membership. Percentage-wise, we have a greater number of members attending the national rallies than in previous years, before the closing of the factory. More attendees mean larger

self-supporting rallies and the potential to increase vendor attendance. However, more attendees also limits the choice of RV Parks able to accommodate us.

After the By-Law change made in 2008, some Chapters revised their by-laws to allow Associate Membership. This enabled those without Kings to join the chapters and also to attend the National KOTR Rally and participate in the activities. Staying in touch with the Organization and membership was very important to those who had previously owned a King. Some of these former members have voiced their aversion to belonging to an organization where they cannot be full-fledged members with all voting rights. This appears to be a major issue, and one we may have to decide in the near future.

Once the By-Laws are changed to allow members who own a brand of RV other than a King, we cannot be an exclusive King of the Road RV Organization and will not have the support of the factory should production ever continue. The use of the name and crown logo could possibly be forfeited.

Therefore, every member should determine the answer to one of the two basic questions in their decision making:

1. Is it best for the Kings on the Road Organization to move forward and change the membership qualifications now?
2. Is it best for the Kings on the Road Organization to trust our elected Board to closely monitor the situation and make the recommendation to change when they feel that waiting any longer would be detrimental to the Organization.

The Organization is currently comprised of only King of the road owners. To change this would require By-law changes as required in paragraph 18 & 19 of our Organization By-laws. These changes require a two-thirds majority of the membership at the rally and absentee ballots.

As your President, I sincerely hope that I have maintained a position of neutrality. I believe that all the elected Board members should represent the entire Organization and support the desires of the majority of membership in the direction they chose on this matter.

I trust that all members of the Kings on the Road will give careful thought and consideration to the direction you want the Organization to proceed.

Bud Argo
President – Kings on the Road