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*For Immediate Release:*

**WOMENS MOTORCYCLE ORGANIZATION SPREADS ITS WINGS WESTWARD** - RoadQueenUSA.Org of Lecanto, Florida

For additional information contact Kathleen Hanratty, 708-430-1512 or [hanrattyk@gmail.com](mailto:hanrattyk@gmail.com) or Linda Dalton 352-586-3504

The number of women in motorcycling is growing at a rapid pace. In 2015, the latest Motorcycle Owner Survey found that women now account for 14% of all U.S. motorcycle owners as compared to 8% in 1998. Female riders have doubled from 2003 (600k) to 2014 (1.2MM) with a median age of 39. When these women gather many are motivated to use their status as a woman on a motorcycle for a larger cause, a better good. That's why **Road Queen USA, Inc.** (a 501(c) 3 charity) was formed in 2005 by motorcycle enthusiast, Linda Dalton, aka The Road Queen. "In 2011, an area nearby was hit by a devastating tornado," said Dalton. "People lost homes, pets, personal belongings and worse. I just felt the need to do *something* to help." So something she did... Dalton rallied her resources and the community of motorcyclists to bring donations to a central location, and she delivered everything personally to the tornado victims. "That was just the beginning," said Dalton. "The feeling that you get when you are helping others, well, it's great. And as a group, we motorcyclists can really make the difference in the lives of others." And that's just what she and her fellow motorcyclists have been doing for the past several years.

That spark ignited a flame that is now growing across the country with the formation of **Road Queen USA West**. "I have had many women ask for a "West" event. I can now tell you that it's coming," said Dalton. "Kathleen Hanratty has joined forces with RQUSA and will serve the women west of the Mississippi River by forming Road Queen USA West, a branch of Road Queen USA, located in Rio Rancho, New Mexico and registered as a 501(c) 3 in New Mexico. "Hanratty is an active member and leader in Women Riders USA and Women Riders Southwest Region and will serve as Operations Director of RQUSA West events. Kathleen is continuing the RQUSA philosophy of *Riding for a Reason*; "to have monies raised in a community, stay in that community to benefit that community" said Hanratty. **Road Queen USA West** will focus its fundraising efforts to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Mexico, Ranger Lady, Inc.\* and Lap Dog Rescue of New Mexico, Inc.\*\* Hanratty also said she is "excited to bring events to the West for women riders and to benefit charities in the West."

**Road Queen USA West's** first event is scheduled for August 20, 2016 in Santa Fe, NM. **Ride & Roll for Rescue** is an organized event. Motorcyclists pay an entry fee of \$20/bike (\$10 for each additional tally card) and then ride to various checkpoints. At each check point dice are rolled and the result recorded and stamped for authentication. At the last checkpoint scores are tallied, the winners are determined and prizes awarded. Proceeds will benefit Lap Dog Rescue of New Mexico.

For more information about this event or **Road Queen USA**, or **Road Queen USA West**, their mission and upcoming events, please visit our website at [www.RoadQueenUSA.org](http://www.RoadQueenUSA.org) or our Facebook pages; Road Queen USA and Road Queen USA West.

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\* **Ranger Lady, Inc.**, a 501 (c) 3, charity serves the forgotten in long term care with personal dignity items. "The forgotten are our brothers and sisters, who struggle with mental health issues, residing in locked facilities and often abandoned by family." The homeless who access resource centers for their personal dignity needs are also served.

\*\***Lap Dog Rescue of New Mexico, Inc.** is a 501(c) 3 charity dedicated to rescuing small companion dogs from New Mexico shelters. LDRNM is an all-volunteer, foster based organization which relies solely on the generosity of others to fund its mission of rehabilitating these dogs so they may be placed in loving forever homes. LDRNM rescues approximately 500 small dogs annually.