



**RED KNIGHTS  
INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS  
MOTORCYCLE CLUB®  
Boylston, Massachusetts Est. 1982**

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Hello everyone,

Having completed my first 2-year term as Regional Director, it is time for me to look back on the last 2 years and reflect on what has happened and what we have accomplished as a Board and as members.

The first few months were all about learning all the rules and procedures of our large club. It has been fun, it has been a lot of learning, and it has been depressing at times, but at the end of my first term, all I have to say is: It is worth every single minute of work.

I don't know how many emails I've gotten, how many emails I've answered, how many phone calls, text messages, etc. I have received and how many I have answered. To be honest, I really don't want to know. And why is that? Because I don't care how much the board works and I invest in the club because I see how much progress we have made in the last year.

We started to reorganize the European Quartermaster (which turned out to be fantastic), we set up the IT committee which is already a great asset to the board and soon to the rest of the club. Our International Secretary put countless hours of work into the TMLA program (finally everything is digital and much easier to organize).

The biggest project in the European Region was the first International Convention ever held in Europe. It was a huge task for the entire region to organize and accommodate nearly 600 members in a small town. But we did it, and Austria 4 did an amazing job. The Europeans showed their best side and we showed everyone what we mean by party, comradeship and brotherhood. For those who were at an international convention for the first time, it was a blast. Everyone had a great time sharing stories, making new friends, celebrating and partying together.

This is just a small glimpse of what has happened in the last few months.

What will happen in the future?

The most important task is without a doubt the 2024 International Convention in Leipzig, Germany. The chapter is well prepared and the whole MC is looking forward to this week.

We have a lot of projects going on at the same time. The biggest would be for the IT Committee. They are working with other committees and the board to come up with a solution for communication (app etc).

For the first time ever, the Annual Business Meeting was recorded and will be distributed to everyone so that those who were not able to attend can see what happened at the meeting. We had some problems with the recording, so it is not perfect. But for a first attempt at recording, it could have been a lot worse. We already have some ideas on how to improve the next one and we will try to speed up the process.

We have had a number of new chapters start in Europe in the last 2 years and I am working with the European Association Board to get new chapters in our region.

We will have a lot of rides in 2024, a lot of parties and chapter anniversaries that I encourage you to attend and participate in. I know we all have families and jobs and other things going on, but you can only see what this MC is all about when you feel it live at an event. Ride your bike and have fun with all your brothers and sisters around the world.

**“Loyal to Our Duty”**



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One last thing I would like to ask all of you:

If you have any problems within a chapter, with another person or chapter, or whoever, try to act like an adult. I hate the bitching that is becoming more and more prevalent in the fellowship and in our MC. Stop the backbiting. If you have problems solve them in a brotherly and adult way. In the last 2 years I have had to deal with situations that if someone would have told me 2 years ago I would have said that it is not possible that situations like this could happen, but they did. And to all the Facebook (and all other social media) keyboard warriors, don't put anything on social media that you don't have the courage to say to a person in person. To all those who complain and whine all the time about everything, every year there are open positions at every level of the MC. Don't just complain, apply for the position and try to bring in your own ideas. I kindly ask you to concentrate on the essential things like:

**FAMILY, BROTHERHOOD AND FELLOWSHIP.**

Having said that, I would like to wish you all happy holidays, a good end to the season, a good start to the new one, and good health.

Tom van der Kley

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