



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

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Greetings one and all, and welcome to 2024! This should be a big year for us all, I know it will be for me! I have lots of hopes, lots of plans, lots of work and mostly lots of **THANKS**.

The year 2023 was certainly an eventful year for me. I've seen great things happen, including our first International Convention and Annual Business Meeting held overseas, in Füssach, Austria. I'd like to thank Austria 4 and all its members for doing an outstanding job on such short notice. Well done to all involved!

As you all know, Vice President Spike Ostiguy ran for and won the president's position that was opened when (Past) President Joey Powell elected not to run for a third term. Thank you, Joey, for your time in the hot seat, and thank you Spike for stepping into it! Long time Board Member Leo Patry stepped down from his position as Region 2 Director after 30 years in various positions on the Board. I would like to publicly say **thank you Leo** for your dedication to the Red Knights.

At the close of the ABM there were two Board positions vacated, Region 2 Director and Vice President. Randy Smith (Ontario 1) ran unopposed for the position of Region 2 Director and was sworn into office on October 30th. **Congratulations** Randy and **thank you!** You have some big shoes to fill!

Matt Mattera and I tossed our hats into the race for VP. **Thank you, Matt**, for a well-run race. I'm sure the membership appreciated it as much as I. I want to extend a huge **THANK YOU to the membership**, for placing your trust in me. I look forward to representing and serving all of you, and I pray that I fulfill your expectations.

Voting closed at midnight, December 8, and we were all informed on December 12th of the result. I attended my first Zoom Board Meeting on December 13th and was sworn in as your 12th International Vice President. I flew to Boston on the 19th and spent the next 2 days with Spike getting briefed on the ins and outs of the position, arriving back in Florida the night of the 21st.

Now, 10 days and another Zoom Meeting later, I'm preparing my first End of Year Report. I wish I had more to give you. I've spent most of my time getting familiar and catching up with all that's happened on the Board in just these past 3 months, never mind the entire year. I've begun processing the 33 MAL applications that have come in since September 1st. Some are for transfers out of chapters which must be sorted with the members and their respective chapters. Some, when combined with others, may never be MAL's but rather new chapter charter members. Best of all, I have been able to vet and approve 3 for membership. It doesn't seem like much, but with the holidays it has been challenging getting responses. I have great hopes for the first 2 weeks of the new year.

Once again, I am looking forward to **2024 AND BEYOND** to serving you, the members, to the best of my ability. Thank you for trusting me. Here's to seeing you in Cork in April, Keene in June, Leipzig in August or anywhere else we end up together. By the way, yes, I will run for re-election this year!

As always, I remain,

Loyal to Our Duty

Norm Beausoleil
RKIFMC® International Vice President
Life Member & Founder
Massachusetts Chapter 1

“Loyal to Our Duty”