



**Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club® Inc.**  
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## **Report from Region 2**

Greetings Fellow Knights

Our Region covers Eastern Canada, from Ontario to Newfoundland, with over 850 chapter members in 41 chapters, as well as 18 M-A-Ls. It's over 3200 kms between our most distant chapters. (in miles, that's a lot too)

### **Activities in 2024**

The year started (January 05-07) at the **International Motorcycle Supershow** in Mississauga. This may be the largest show in Canada, and Ontario Association 6 has a great setup, giving the RKMC much needed visibility and an important recruiting opportunity.

Also in January, I had the honour of attending the celebration of life for an Ontario 11 member, presenting a flag and coin to his family. This was extra special for me, as I had known him for decades. We will miss Carl Cornell, who joins the late Joye Cornell on the Heaven 1 roster.

In February, as the Secretary of Association 6, I met with the Executive in Elmira Ontario.

On March 02, my home chapter Ontario 1, celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There were several Charter Members in attendance. We had our most senior, and most junior, members there. It was a wonderful occasion.

In April, the International Board met in Baltimore, Md. We conducted 4 days of meetings, which resolved many outstanding issues. We have also met several times by Zoom videoconferencing to deal with many types of issues. This Club of ours, spread around the globe, has many challenges. We can meet them, and deal with them, as long as we always remember to listen.

Throughout the year, I have been engaged with several groups wishing to form new RKMC chapters. We now have new chapters in Hawkesbury, Ontario and Miramichi, New Brunswick. We have also gained some new M-A-Ls and hope to mate them with chapters some day.

In May, I had the pleasure of meeting visiting members from Massachusetts. We had a great dinner and time to socialize.

On June 08, **Ontario Association 6** held its **AGM** in Port Perry. This year, there are some changes on the Association Executive. The outgoing President, Wylie Welsh, has served on the Executive since it's inception and is to be commended for putting in countless hours to help build the Club in Ontario. The Association now has a big screen TV to use at bike shows, etc.

From July 18-21, the **Atlantic Rally** is in Charlottetown, PEI. I will be attending with other Ontario members and will report on it at a later date.

August 11 will be the second annual **Camp Bucko ride**, supporting burn survivor kids. Ontario Chapter 1 is taking the lead on this, giving multiple busloads of campers a motorcycle escort into the camp. We did it last year, we loved it and so did the kids!



Last year, members from Ontario attended the first **RKMC International Convention** ever held in Europe, in Fussach, Austria. The camaraderie of an International Convention cannot be described, you simply must see and feel it. This year, we return to Europe for the International Convention in Leipzig, Germany.

The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF) has reached out to the Red Knights to participate in the 2024 Fallen Firefighters ceremony in Ottawa this September. Ontario and Quebec chapters are expected to be part of this. More to follow.

### **Chaplaincy**

Last year, the RKMC suffered the loss of our International Chaplain, Dave Diveley. As a lay minister, I filled in as Chaplain Pro Tem. This is in fact a stand-alone position within the Club.

At the start of this year I dealt with the passings of several members, from Poland to Virginia. Many thanks to the chapter Presidents and Regional Directors who stepped up to help me with these duties.

The International requested applications from members willing to take this role on. After reviewing many submissions, we were lucky enough to gain the services of Theresa Palmer as our International Chaplain. We are thrilled to have “Terri” in this position. Her background, skills and insight are truly a gift. Welcome!

**This is important** - Please ensure that rosters are up to date and dues are paid, as this is critical to our Heaven 1 protocols. Your chapter may vote to pay the dues for any ailing member to keep them current. I can't tell you how difficult it is to tell a chapter that their (former) member cannot be assigned full honours due to them having been dropped from the roster. This is why it's done quarterly, and not just annually.

## Looking forward

In my previous report, I requested that I be included on distribution lists for events in Region2. I really want to get out and meet as many Knights as possible. So far, I have invites from chapters in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. I'll do my best to see you all.

I still ask the following from every chapter in Region 2 – if you have an event coming up, please let everyone know in advance. Email your Provincial Rep, cc me as well. Many times, we've heard from members after an event "Wow, I would have attended that". This is a social organization, and I emphasize social.

Please remember that I am always available by email at [region2@redknightsmc.com](mailto:region2@redknightsmc.com) or by phone at 647-470-7562. If you're coming through Toronto, let me know. There's always time for a coffee or a bite to eat with a fellow Knight.

In fellowship,

**Randy Smith**  
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***"Loyal To Our Duty"***