



Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club® Inc.
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2024 End of Year Report from Region 2

Greetings/Felicitations!

It is a pleasure to give the membership an update from the Great White North. The snow is falling outside, and the temperature is -4 Celsius. It's a perfect time to talk motorcycles, and the year in review. First, a brief look at Region 2.

Our Region encompasses all 6 of the provinces from Ontario to Newfoundland. We currently have 40 chapters, and approximately 894 chapter members and 19 M-A-Ls. It's a large geographic area, with Canada's most and least populated provinces. It's beautiful riding from one end to another.

The Year in Review

In 2024, after a brief stint as Chaplain Pro Tem, it was great to welcome Terri Palmer as our new International Chaplain. She is a great addition to our team.

February is the height of curling season (don't ask!). The Toronto Firefighters Celtic Society held a large fundraising bonspiel for one of our designated charities, Camp Bucko. Many area departments come, and it's a blast. The Red Knights

attended, and ON-1 President Tony Cardinale repped us on the ice!



We have developed a strong relationship with Camp Bucko, a summer camp for young burn victims. More on this later.

In March, we saw my home chapter (Ontario 1) celebrate our 40th anniversary. It was heartwarming to have Charter members such as myself sitting with new members who just joined the fire service a few years ago.

The International Board held it's Spring (April) and Fall (November) meetings in Baltimore Maryland. A lot of work is carried out at these meetings. We never forget the trust that has been placed with us, or our obligation to you. There are some issues which may involve a lot of discussion, and we always approach them with respect for each other and your best interests in mind.

The Board also meets throughout the year via Zoom meetings. This is an efficient and cost-effective way of dealing with many time-sensitive, or minor items.

I was able to attend the Atlantic Rally this year in Charlottetown, PEI., a truly beautiful part of Canada. East coast hospitality at it's finest.

New chapters were formed in Miramichi, NB and Hawkesbury, ON. Sadly, we lost a chapter as well. This serves as a reminder to every chapter that we are either bringing new members in, or slowly shrinking.

I sit on the Executive of Ontario Association 6 as well. This year saw some changes to the Board, and more are coming in 2025. Ontario Red Knights will see some new ideas, with input from all welcome.

Ontario 1 welcomes other chapters as they provide a motorcycle escort for busloads of campers to Camp Bucko each year. The kids love it, and so do we! This year, the rain didn't deter us at all. We were well received by staff and campers alike.

The International Convention in Leipzig, Germany was a total success. An incredible experience for attendees. You have to attend just one International to understand who and what we are. I'm told that the rides were great as well.



The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial weekend was held Sept. 6 – 8 this year in our nation's capital, Ottawa. For the first time ever, the RKMC was invited play

a role in this national event. Members from Ontario formed a Guard of Honour at a private ceremony for the families of the fallen on Saturday. On Sunday, Ontario and Quebec members joined the official parade to the CFFF monument. It was solemn, but the reception of the families assured us that we will be back next year. Our goal is to have each province of Region 2 represented each year.

A special honour for me this year – On October 20, President Spike Ostiguy and I got to surprise retired Region 2 Director Leo Patry at an Ontario 7 meeting, where we presented him with his Director Emeritus plaque. His 3+ decades of unwavering service to this Club will never be forgotten, and I consider him a great mentor.

This year one of my duties is to handle the reservations for the Memorial House. Please use the form on the website to make your reservation.

I am happy to answer each email and phone call that I've received. If I don't get back to you right away, I apologize but I'll do my best. It's gratifying to be able to explain a procedure or SOG one on one, and have the other person understand the real meaning of it. We on the Board are constantly looking for ways to improve communication and clarify terms that aren't common language to everyone.

The coming year is already off to a busy start. The Spring International Board meetings are set, and we have Zoom meetings on a continuous basis. Everyone is looking forward to this year's Convention in Illinois, as well as next year in Australia. My home chapter is already heavily into planning for the 2027 Convention at sea, sailing from Florida and hosted by Ontario 1! The logistics are...interesting! Great ideas are flowing, and the energy is infectious.

Please know that I am always available to chat, unless I'm running calls at work. Phone, email or drop by the fire station (with a little notice!) and I'll put the coffee on. Here's to a great 2025 with lots of laughs, and lots of memories.

I remain,
Loyal To Our Duty

Randy Smith

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